NSL half-way review — State Leagues: Inside

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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VALIANT IN DEFEAT

Action from Sunday's heartbreaking 1-1 draw: FAR LEFT — Frank Farina eludes Yehuda Amar. LEFT — David Mitchell in full cry. ABOVE — Ephraim Davidi and Eddie Krncevic.

PICTURES BY FRANK SAYA

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCCEROOS

Australia v Israel 1-1

Arrivederci, Roma...

BY LOU GAUTIER

ISRAEL snuffed out Australia's World Cup aspirations in a repeat performance of 1969.

For the Australians it was a depressing case of deja vu. Then, Australia also needed a win (to qualify for Mexico), but could only manage a 1-1 draw.

Israel had also opened the score and John Watkiss had equalised — in the 82nd minute — in another case of too little too late.

The same scenario unfolded last Sunday at the Sydney Football Stadium in front of a capacity crowd of 40,000-plus, a record for the ground.

Needing just a draw to qualify, the Israelis always looked likely to achieve their aim. Sad to say, an Aussie win was never on.

From the kick-off, the composed Israelis were always in control against an ill-inspired Australian side which never got going.

ABYSMAL

Australia's first half display was abysmal. Their midfield was non-existent, the strikers rarely saw the ball and the defence was always in trouble when the Israelis attacked down the flanks.

All the hours of jet-setting finally caught up with Charlie Yankos, who could not cope with the pace of the Israelis; Oscar Crino played lethargically all afternoon; Paul Wade's distribution was astray; Wally Savor was befuddled by Ronnie Rosental and expatriates Eddie Krncevic, David Mitchell and Frank-Farina were not a factor.

There was only one clean shot on Bonni Ginzberg's goal in the first half, but Israel came close on a couple of instances.

In the 16th minute, Jeff Olver answered his armchair critics with a reflex-save off a point-blank left-footed shot by Moshe Sinai, who had stolen the ball from Wade.

Two minutes later, Olver's only recourse was to bring down Rosental after the speed-merchant from Standard Liege had given Wally Savor the slip.

The Israelis created an ugly scene as they swarmed all over the referee, appealing for a penalty which Carlo Longhi denied.

In the 38th minute, it was Australia's turn to claim a spot-kick when Arvi Cohen upended Farina, but the Italian again turned a blind eye.

Longhi raised a few eyebrows with his energetic, to say the least, style of refereeing. He did not hesitate to shove players aside when they argued with his decisions.

Disaster struck in the 40th minute when Eli Ohana scored a bizarre goal.

The culprit was Socceroo skipper Yankos, who lost control of a most innocuous ball, gratefully pounced upon by the elusive Mechelen star.

Before the shell-shocked Australian defenders had time to regroup, Ohana had skirted around Olver and snuck the ball into the net despite a desperate lunge by Gary van Egmond.

Australia did put the ball in the net 40 seconds before the interval, but Graham Arnold's shot was ruled no goal by the referee for an infringement by Krncevic on goalie Ginzberg.

Frank Arok replaced the out of sorts Wade by Mike Petersen at half-time and the Socceroos at once were much more incisive.

Though Israel still dominated the midfield and wasted precious few balls, Australia made more use of the wings and Krncevic and Mitchell were getting better service.

Mitchell's probings were taking their toll on the Israeli defenders, but Krncevic, who had only arrived 48 hours earlier, wilted in the latter stages.

Arok surprised by taking Farina out in the 67th minute, but the inclusion of Paul Trimboli paid dividends as the talented young striker added creativity and dash to what had been a stereotyped attack the Israelis had little trouble containing.

That Trimboli's goal should have come too late to matter is a tragedy, but the manner in which he latched on to Mitchell's header will live on.

A few minutes earlier, the Socceroos had passionately appealed for another penalty — this time when Nir Klinger clearly handled a chip shot from Trimboli.

Shalom Tikva and Australia's best player, second half substitute Mike Petersen. FRANK SAYA pic.

Again, referee Longhi was unmoved, which goes to show that referees march to different drums.

In the Tel Aviv game, West German Manfred Neumer did not hesitate to award a penalty against Alan Davidson, who like Tikva had handled accidentally, the ball bouncing on to his hand from his boot.

To add to Arok's fury, which had no bounds at the final whistle when he almost manhandled Longhi, the referee "forgot" to add at least three minutes of injury-time.

He had prolonged the first half by almost five minutes to make up for Israel's time-wasting, but only added 30 seconds to the second despite the writhing and agonising of the Israelis whenever they were bumped off the ball.

Granted, the momentum was in Australia's favour when Longhi prematurely ended the game, but it is wishful thinking to believe the Socceroos could have pulled the match out of the fire in injury-time.

The truth, however unpalatable, is that Israel deserved to win the group.

That they were more skilful was never in doubt, but their alleged tendency to fold under pressure proved a myth.

Last Sunday, they were calm, cool and collected. They dictated their terms throughout the 90 minutes, stuck admirably to their planned strategy and never wavered.

Australia was helpless to reverse the trend and were pummelled into passivity by a superior opponent.

All the conditions were there to make this a moment to remember for the Socceroos, but, to be quite blunt, they blew it.

Blaming the referee is a poor alibi.

Israel, in all fairness, did not deserve to lose, and on the physiognomy of the entire 90 minutes a draw was a just reward.

Australia has yet to win — or lose — a World Cup match at home to the Israelis as now all three clashes on Australian soil have ended in 1-1 draws.

Olver, blameless on Ohana's goal, hyperactive second-half man Petersen, late sub Trimboli and van Egmond, who overcame a tentative start, were the only Aussies to perform anywhere near their best.

In a spirited Israeli team, Ohana's exquisite skills, the pace of the ever-dangerous Rosental, Shalom Tikva's probings and the towering presence of Klinger in defence caught the eye.

AUSTRALIA: Olver, Savor, Davidson, Yankos, van Egmond, Wade (Petersen, second half), Farina (Trimboli 67), Mitchell, Arnold, Crino, Krncevic.

ISRAEL: Ginzberg, Cohen, Amar, Klinger, Parselani, Alon, Sinai, Davidi, Tikva (Aharoni 80) Ohana, Rosental.

Scorers: Ohana 40m for Israel; Trimboli 88m for Australia.

Referee: Carlo Longhi (Italy). Crowd: 40,000 at Sydney Football Stadium.

RECORD CROWD

THOUSANDS of fans were stuck outside the Sydney Football Stadium only minutes before the scheduled kick-off of the Australia-Israel World Cup match last Sunday.

Traffic was brought to a standstill and there were chaotic scenes at ticket booths as desperate fans tried to get in to see the match.

The match had to be delayed for 15 minutes — a most unusual World Cup occurrence — and stadium officials were eventually forced to open the corporate areas in the top deck of both stands to accommodate the jam-packed crowd.

Twenty minutes before the kick-off officials were forced to stop further sales of tickets and an estimated 2,000 people had to be turned away.

The official capacity of the stadium is 40,000 but officials admitted it was likely there must have been at least 42,000 inside.

People were standing five-deep at the back and on the sides of the top decks in both stands and some 500 were forced to stand on the concreting behind the Paddington end goal.

FRANK FARINA . . . not a factor

The attendance was by far the biggest for a World Cup match in Australia and the third largest soccer crowd in Sydney since the advent of the Federation 28 years ago.

Only the Cosmos game almost a decade ago and the NSW-Everton match in 1965 have attracted larger crowds.

LOU GAUTIER

OCEANIA TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	4	1	3	0	5	4	5
Australia	4	1	2	1	6	4	4
New Zealand	4	1	1	2	5	7	3

Results: Israel 1 New Zealand 0, Israel 1 Australia 1, Australia 4 New Zealand 1, New Zealand 2 Australia 0, New Zealand 2 Israel 2, Australia 1 Israel 1.

WORLD CUP ACTION

ABOVE — The Israelis cop a yellow card from referee Carlo Longhi after claiming a first half penalty. BELOW — Iron man Nir Klinger and Grahan Arnold vie for possession. Photos by FRANK SAYA.

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Practice made Israel perfect

BY JOE DI MEGLIO

LAST week I took the opportunity to gauge the outlook of the Israeli camp by attending one of their practice sessions at Lambert Park.

It makes interesting and revealing reading to see just how they worked out their plans to hold Australia last Sunday to the draw they needed to advance in the World Cup.

Their activities made it plain they would be playing for the one point required.

Ya'akov Grundman had Yehuda Amar and reserve goalkeeper Adir Shamir give Bonni Ginzberg a string of high balls into his area as a taste of things to come on Sunday.

Ginzberg, excellent on ground shots, was thought to be suspect in their air, but the practice obviously paid off as he was imperial on high balls at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Grundman took charge of the defence and midfield personally.

They rehearsed tight-marking in the air, close to opposing strikers. The most impressive was Nir Alon, the man who was given the task of marking Eddie Krncevic in Tel Aviv.

Yitzhak Schneor worked with the strikers and attacking midfielders.

As with his fellow-coach, he took each exercise with caution to ensure every player completed an injury-free session.

Eli Ohana was one player kept under close scrutiny in view of an earlier injury. The Mechelen star proved he was fully fit with a sparkling display on Sunday.

Ronnie Rosental, with his unusual running action, looked equipped to take on any defence. Specialising in quick turns, he showed the same electrifying pace at training as he did against Australia.

One interesting point was that a majority of the Israelis favoured their left feet.

Yehuda Amar and Eddie Krncevic in one of their many no-holds-barred duels last Sunday.

World Cup exit is not the end of the world

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE party is over, the lights have dimmed — Australia's 1990 World Cup hopes have been shattered by a skilful, highly disciplined and tactically superior Israel.

Postmortems galore are bound to follow and the game will be dissected over and over again, but let me make this clear from the start: it is not the end of the world.

Actually, it is a new beginning.

Australian soccer and the Socceroos will go on, possibly to greater heights.

Frank Arok has made it clear he has every intention of carrying on at the helm.

The ASF shouldn't waste any time. He must be reappointed at once, possibly with Eddie Thomson again as his full-time assistant, and must get cracking with a new squad.

Invitations to Asian tournaments, like the President's Cup in South Korea, should be gratefully accepted. NOW is the time to regroup, to sort the men from the boys.

The advent of a summer National League this year will allow the Socceroos to play internationals during our winter months when top teams will be available as opponents during the European summer, either at home or overseas.

Australia has the potential to mount a successful World Cup campaign in 1994.

There is a whole new generation of players ready, willing and able to fill the boots of the stalwarts, whose international careers almost certainly ended at the Sydney Football Stadium last Sunday.

Granted, several players performed way below form in their last two World Cup outings, but those who rubbish them — and they are many — ought to remember their past contributions.

A look at our World Cup results clearly indicates we were just not good enough.

A win and a loss against Fiji, followed by a solitary victory in the subsequent Oceania group, and a total record which includes two wins, two draws and two defeats is not the stuff World Cup finals are made of.

Israel went through the series undefeated. New Zealand was the catalyst.

Australia's World Cup dream has been dashed, but it lives on for Israel.

They worked every bit as hard as Australia to achieve dominance. Good luck to them!

I am sure every soccer fan will join me in wishing them well against their South American play-off opponents.

What they said

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

THE atmosphere in the Australian and Israeli dressing rooms provided a sharp contrast after Sunday's game.

Israel's was crowded with supporters hugging their victorious World Cup players as they loudly sang "Here we go, here we go, here we go..."

Meanwhile a deafening silence reigned inside Australia's dressing room.

I first approached Socceroo skipper, Charlie Yankos.

Charlie said: "As to my future, in the short term anything could happen.

"Today's result has been a most disappointing end to our World Cup campaign.

"I'll be leaving tomorrow for Greece to train with PAOK.

"I will always be available to play for my country if and when I am needed.

"Anything can happen now. We must remember that Australia has to start preparing for the next Olympic Games as well as the 1994 World Cup campaign.

"Today we had enough of the game to win."

Meanwhile, sitting quietly on the massage table and ready to join the team bus was Australia's sole goalscorer, the highly talented Paul Trimboli.

When the young South Melbourne striker substituted Frank Farina in the 65th minute he could hardly have realised that 22 minutes later he would lift Australia's hopes by scoring the equaliser.

When I questioned Trimboli about his goal, the lad quietly answered: "To be honest I didn't think too much about the goal.

"The ball was knocked high into the box where Dave Mitchell got up well and headed it down to me. I swung round and hit it into the net.

"But time was running out fast and all I could think of was Australia scoring another goal very quickly."

At the other end of the dressing rooms the tall lanky Dave Mitchell, who had rushed back from England to help Australia, told me: "I'm very disappointed.

"We gave away a stupid goal for nothing. Utterly costly.

"After they scored, it really took us more than half an hour to get going again.

"And finally when we equalised it was too late.

Part of the massive security at the jam-packed Sydney Football Stadium where 40,000-plus spectators created logistic problems for officials.

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Arok prepared to stay on

BY KEITH GILMOUR

FRANK AROK took time after Sunday's Australia-Israel World Cup match to lambast Italian referee Carlo Longhi for not playing injury time in the second half.

"I adjusted my watch for stoppages and Mr Longhi was four minutes short. Had he done the correct thing we still could have won the game," he said.

At the same time Arok was forced to admit that little could be done about the matter at that stage.

Speaking of his future, Arok made it known that his arrangements with the Australian Soccer Federation carry on until the end of the World Cup, which is July 9 1990.

"I want to stay, but it is in their hands as to whether they want to keep me," he added.

Arok was pleased with the substitutions he made, feeling that fluency needed in the midfield was achieved by the bringing in of Mike Petersen.

"Today we saw a young talent in Paul Trimboli take the field and he will go on to much greater things," Arok said with justification.

Arok is believed to have had previous offers from Israel, but there would be no prize for surmising that they would now feel that their present combination of Ya'akov Grundman and Yitzhak Schneor are well capable of carrying on their present task.

There have been well sourced whispers that the Hungarian FA is interested in securing Arok's services.

Grundman, with the advantage of victory behind him, hid behind his interpreter when it came to fielding the difficult questions.

It was near impossible to obtain a meaningful comment on lack of allowance for injury time.

So far as timewasting was concerned, that was part of the game in view of Israel's point advantage when they went into the game.

From there on it is all the best to Israel, who play off against the South American Group 2 winners and can now cool their heels until the the group is decided.

The number of referes who checked stoppage time on their watches was legion.

Mr Longhi's marks for timekeeping could not have been lower, and, after pushing so many players, they said he could only expect the compliments to be returned.

He allowed Israeli players to visit the sidelines for drinks regularly, contrary to instructions.

Lessons

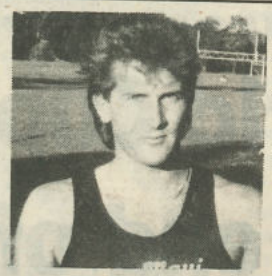
World Cup E for EXIT DAY was a great joy in respect of both weather and the crowd, if not the result.

Delay in opening the turnstiles until 1.30pm caused some crushes, and indeed cases of youngsters being trampled on in the rush were reported.

A quicker assessment of crowd size should have been made, so that the top of the eastern stand could have been opened to patrons before overcrowding of other sections occurred.

The waving of a skull and crossbones flag was stopped, but the authorities apparently failed to deal with a far more offensive swastika flag.

The Aussie "end" of the Sydney Football Stadium celebrates Paul Trimboli's late equaliser — HECTOR CARASCO Photo.



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MID-TERM NSL REPORT

Marconi set to repeat

BY GREG BLAKE

MARCONI is set to become only the second club to win back-to-back NSL championships.

As the 1989 league campaign ticked over the half-way mark, Marconi was still at "unbackable" odds as it bids to emulate the now-defunct Sydney City, which won NSL titles in 1980-81-82.

Marconi, which marched from last year's elimination final through to a memorable grand final triumph over Sydney Croatia, is a better

BERTI MARIANI

team than it was at this time last year and fully deserves to sit at the head of the NSL ladder.

With two games in hand, only complacency will stop them from finishing the league season in top spot and that crucial week's rest in the finals.

Marconi's task of winning successive titles has been made more difficult with last year's introduction of a true finals series.

Berti Mariani's Marconi looks the part. It has the players, the coaching staff, top club management and a first- class ground to make it the flagship of the National League.

The nearest challenges will almost certainly come from the well-heeled Sydney Croatia and even possibly surprise packet St George, a proven finals campaigner.

Big-spending Preston Makedonia will be disappointed if it doesn't go close, but the only likely candidate from Melbourne may be improving South Melbourne Hellas.

Hellas was the sleeping giant earlier in the season, but in recent weeks the Middle Park brigade has started to find some of the touch it showed in 1988 when "Garvey's Babes" finished a creditable third before losing both finals games.

MARCONI have few weaknesses, two games in hand, and arguably the most valuable player in the league this year in Zlatko Nastevski.

All the reigning champs must guard against is the type of mid-season slump they experienced in 1988, when they went five games without a win between rounds 16 and 20.

Challenger

Marconi led the league at this time last year, and this season should see it follow through to the end.

Defeated 1988 grand finalist SYDNEY CROATIA is still the obvious challenger with, on paper, the strongest and certainly most exciting first team in the NSL.

Sydney Croatia has three games in hand, and after the Socceroos' World Cup committments are over and the league returns to normal, Croatia should go from strength to strength.

With an uninterrupted schedule, Croatia seem destined to repeat their ninth to second effort in the second half of 1988 when they lost just two of 16 games.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA is new at this finals game, and with a virtual new-look side in 1989, it has done well to stay on the leader's tail for so long.

Experts suggested Makedonia would take time to find its feet, but its early form marks the club as a likely contender.

It would be foolish to write off a side boasting the likes of Steve Jackson, John Markovski and Andrew Zinni, but no way is it in the class of Marconi and Sydney Croatia yet.

The signs are there that SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS is on the way back.

Paul Wade and Steve Tasios are back in business, Mike Petersen has linked up in the middle, and the club now has the experience of last year to draw on at the business end of the season.

With three games in hand, Hellas is a good bet to make the finals and from then on, who knows how far it can go . . .

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's young lions have only flattered to deceive at this stage and can only improve.

Certainly, Olympic has one of the very best coaches in the business in Eddie Thomson and if he can get the best from his charges Olympic has a team capable of challenging for top honours despite its inconsistent form of late.

Olympic have battled injury and suspension more than any other team in recent weeks and they have yet to unearth someone who can consistently score goals for them.

ST GEORGE is a good, average team which, to the half way stage at least, has outdone all pre-season expectations.

Saints, boasting three games in hand, and probably the best defence in the league, have done the hard work to this stage and need only consolidate to make the finals under wily Frank Arok.

Although perhaps not a premiership team, St George, led by the likes of Mike Gibson, Andy Koczka and David Ratcliffe, will make it difficult for any team to take it to the cleaners.

APIA LEICHHARDT is still a danger despite preseason predictions that a mass player walk-out and the loss of Rale Rasic as coach would bring the club to its knees.

It hasn't happened simply because Apia boasts the gritty experience which other clubs dream of.

That experience is likely to pull the club through a testing season, but a finals berth may be out of reach.

Marconi's Fred de Jong (left) and Apia Leichhardt's Mirko Radoslavjlevic were amongst their teams' most consistent in the first half of the National League.

MELBOURNE CROATIA flew from the starting blocks as it does every year before settling into its more accustomed position as a likely also-ran.

Melbourne Croatia always looks good on paper, but it will finish out of finals calculations on recent mediocre form, although a recent win over Sydney Olympic suggested the tide might yet still turn.

Hype and Hoopla

WOLLONGONG CITY stayed in the top five longer than any other club last year — from Round 1 through to Round 26 — and finished top of the league, before losing two successive final play-offs.

The hype and hoopla of the guest-playing days are over and the hangover is apparent.

All shrewd boss John Fleming has left is a battling crew of triers, who neither disgrace themselves or set the world on fire.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS is in much the same boat as Wollongong, with coach John Gardiner consistently trying to coax the best from a squad which simply isn't in the same class as the big-spenders of the NSL.

The Cross could almost made the finals last year and, like Wollongong, might still sneak in in fifth place.

BLACKTOWN CITY's first season back in the big time has been a not unexpected struggle, and one or two big losses has left the club languishing perilously close to the relegation zone.

But Blacktown is better than its league position indicates, and would be unlucky to go down, particularly if it collects points from its deferred matches.

ADELAIDE CITY is the disappointment of the season, with relegation a possibility at this stage.

Despite fielding eight of the team which won the 1986 championship, Adelaide City has so far failed to get its act together.

Still one of the best ball-playing sides in the country, it may yet climb up the ladder.

MELBOURNE JUST thrashed Apia in its first game last season before falling away and rarely looking a threat from then on.

This year it disposed of Melbourne Croatia first up and has only won twice since.

All the old problems are there, and now they've landed John Margaritis with the same bunch which failed coach Dimovski.

HEIDELBERG is still in big trouble, isolated at the foot of the ladder.

It has taken it a long time to adjust to NSL standards again, but if new coach Miron Bleiberg continues the good work of Jim Tansey, there could yet be a light at the end of the tunnel.

NSL ACTION EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

The Big Match

CHECK LOCAL PAPERS FOR SCREENING TIMES

SATURDAY

ST GEORGE v ADELAIDE
MELBOURNE JUST v MARCONI

SUNDAY

HEIDELBERG v MELBOURNE CROATIA
APIA L'HARDT v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

ABC-TV

PRESENTED BY JOHN BELL

MID-TERM NSL REPORT

The best of the crop

BY LOU GAUTIER

SELECTING the best players of any team is always a highly subjective practice.

One man's meat is another man's poison, so the saying goes — and fans all over the world have countless arguments over who's the best.

Here are my choices, as I saw them, at the half-way mark of the National Soccer League, together with the players I believe will steal the limelight in the second half of what is developing into an exciting championship:

ADELAIDE CITY

★ Best player: ROBERT ZABICA
★ Player to watch: MILAN IVANOVICH
★ Leading scorer: JOE MULLEN (4)

APIA

★ Best player: DARREN STEWART
★ Player to watch: BRUCE HALLIDAY
★ Leading scorer: ROD BROWN (4)
★ Send-offs: DARREN STEWART, MIRKO RADOSAVLJEVIC, ALEX BUNDALO, ROD BROWN.

BLACKTOWN

★ Best player: KURT REYNOLDS
★ Player to watch: ZLATKO ARAMBASIC
★ Leading scorer: ZLATKO ARAMBASIC (3)

HEIDELBERG

★ Best player: CLAUDE LUCCHESI
★ Player to watch: GARRY McDOWALL
★ Leading scorer: PHIL STUBBINS, CON OUSALKAS (2)

MARCONI

★ Best player: ZLATKO NASTEVSKI

ZLATKO NASTEVSKI

★ Player to watch: TOM McCULLOCH
★ Leading scorer: ZLATKO NASTEVSKI (11)

MELB. CROATIA

★ Best player: ALAN DAVIDSON
★ Player to watch: ZELJKO ADZIC
★ Leading scorer: IVAN KELIC (8)

MELB. JUST

★ Best player: OSCAR CRINO
★ Player to watch: CARLOS RETRE
★ Leading scorer: OSCAR CRINO, MILAN DIMOSKI (3)
★ Send-offs: DRAGAN DEANKOVIC, JOE PALATSIDES, ERNIE TAPAI, KEN MURPHY

OSCAR CRINO

PRESTON

★ Best player: JOHN MARKOVSKI
★ Player to watch: ROBERT MARKOVAC
★ Leading scorer: WARREN SPINK (5)
★ Send-offs: ZORAN TACEVSKI, STEVE SMITH, ILIJA TACEVSKI

STH MELBOURNE

★ Best player: STEVE BLAIR
★ Player to watch: KIM TALIODOROS
★ Leading scorer: DAMIAN MORI, ANGIE POSTECOGLOU (3)

SYD. CROATIA

★ Best player: ALAN HUNTER
★ Player to watch: MANIS LAMOND
★ Leading scorer: GRAHAM ARNOLD (3)

SYD. OLYMPIC

★ Best player: TOM PONTIDAS
★ Player to watch: DAVID BARRETT
★ Leading scorer: MARSHALL SOPER, ROBERT IRONSIDE (3)

ST GEORGE

★ Best player: ANDY KOCZKA
★ Player to watch: MIKE GRBEVSKI
★ Leading scorer: SCOTT OLLERENSHAW (6)

SUNSHINE

★ Best player: SHAUN PARTON
★ Player to watch: ANDREW MARTH
★ Leading scorer: OSSIE LATIF (5)
★ Send-offs: ANDREW MARTH

WOLLONGONG

★ Best player: DANNY CRAINIE
★ Player to watch: JOHN DANZO
★ Leading scorer: RANDELL EASTHORPE (4)
★ Send-offs: RADE STEFANOVSKI, DANNY CRAINIE

The standings last season

	Round 13	Finished
Marconi	1st	4th
Wollongong	2nd	1st
Sth Melbourne	3rd	3rd
Sydney Croatia	4th	2nd
Adelaide City	5th	6th
Sunshine	6th	7th
Melb. Croatia	7th	9th
Syd. Olympic	8th	5th
Apia Leichh't	9th	11th
St George	10th	8th
Melb. JUST	11th	10th
Preston Mak	12th	12th
Bris. Lions	13th	14th
Brunswick	14th	13th

SOCCER IS THE SAFEST SPORT

INDOOR cricketers are more likely to be injured than footballers, according to a survey by the Australian Sports Medicine Federation.

The survey of 80,000 people in the ACT has found indoor cricket the most dangerous sport — a find that surprised even the sports federation.

Next came rugby league, followed by rugby union and Australian Rules.

Gymnastics was found to be the safest sport. Next came soccer, netball, basketball and squash.

The survey was over two weeks in July and involved the ACT's three major hospital casualty units, 20 doctors and 11 physiotherapists.

During that period, 428 sporting injuries were reported. Of those, 198 were minor, 158 moderate and 65 severe.

The most common cause of injury was contact with an opponent (54%), followed by contact with terrain (31%) and equipment (15%).

(The risk rate was found by multiplying the number of recorded injuries by 100 and dividing by the hours played, times the number of participants.)

- Indoor Cricket 0.2241%
- Rugby League 0.2027%
- Rugby Union 0.1911%
- Australian Rules 0.1909%
- Touch Football 0.1800%
- Hockey 0.1544%
- Squash 0.1288%
- Basketball 0.1100%
- Netball 0.1081%
- Soccer 0.0551%
- Gymnastics 0.0164%

(reprinted — courtesy SUN HERALD)

FEARLESS FORECAST

WHAT will be the finishing order in the NSL this season?

For what it's worth, here are my fearless forecasts — as always a subjective exercise, bound to create controversy.

If you have your own opinion — and what fan hasn't? — jot down your 14 teams in order and post us your list. We'll publish it under your name.

After gazing in my crystal ball, and much trepidation, I've come up with the following:

1 Marconi
2 Sydney Croatia
3 Preston
4 South Melbourne
5 St George
6 Sydney Olympic
7 Apia Leichhardt
8 Melb. Croatia
9 Melb. JUST
10 Adelaide City
11 Wollongong
12 Blacktown
13 Sunshine
14 Heidelberg

— LOU GAUTIER

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NSL CUP ROUND 2

Pedro makes a difference

BY PHIL MURPHY

AN elusive Pedro Ricoy was the architect of the goals which gave Apia a 2-1 NSL cup win over Wollongong City at Brandon Park on Saturday.

It took Apia most of the first half to find their feet but when they did it was Ricoy who stood out in a game punctuated by defensive mistakes.

Referee John McConnell was never in a situation where he was likely to reach for his yellow card.

Wollongong dominated the game for the first 40 minutes but then seemed to retreat in midfield allowing Ricoy to become inolved in proceedings.

After midfielder David Skeen hit the Apia post with a stinging left foot drive, Wollongong deservedly went ahead through a right wing corner from Danny Crainie.

It came in the 27th minute and Apia goalkeeper Tony Pezzano lost the ball in flight causing a mix-up on the goal line.

Robert Giraldi got a touch but it was Apia fullback Brian Ellem who deflected the ball over his own line.

With five minutes to go before the break, Apia drew level after Ricoy eluded Morlando in a run down the right wing.

His cut back found Alex Bundalo, but the ball screwed off Bundalo's boot and landed at the feet of Milan Blagojevic, who make no mistake with a shot which went between Higgs' legs on its way into the net.

The game dragged on into extra-time and seemed destined for penalty kicks before Ricoy again took a hand.

Apia broke quickly on the left with Ricoy shaking off a Morlando challenge before getting in a deep cross.

Wollongong's defence was caught out badly with two Apia players queueing on the far post and it was Kevin Hagan who struck the ball home.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Young, Kotamanidis, Morlando, Easthorpe, Hollifield, Skeen, Higgs, Crainie, Bonetig, Danzo (Batten 64m, Brown 87m), Giraldi.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano, Ellem (Pisano 85m), Brown, M. Halliday, Radosavljevic, Mason, Bundalo, Hagan, Murray (O'Connor 63m), Blagojevic, Ricoy.

Referee: John O'Connell. Crowd: 465.

NSL CUP RESULTS

QUARTER FINALS

ADELAIDE CITY 4 (S. Melta 2, A. Vidmar, T. Vidmar) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 2000.

APIA LEICHHARDT 2 (M. Blagojevic, K. Hagan) WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (B. Ellem o.g.) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 465.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (R. Ironside, G. Gomez o.g., J. Polak) MARCONI 1 (Z. Nastevski) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 3056.

ADELAIDE CITY 4 SUNSHINE GC 0 — ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE City survived an early onslaught to send Sunshine George Cross home under an NSL Cup cloud, winning 4-0 on Friday at Hindmarsh.

Import Milan Ianovich held a fragile City defence together after the early lapses and with little opposition in midfield, City gradually returned to about their best home form of the season.

Captain Sergio Melta led from the front with two goals.

His first came in the 33rd minute when he beat offside with a pass to himself and shot well past Sean Keough.

The killer blow for Sunshine came just five minutes into the second-half when a good run by Aurelio Vidmar left Charlie Villani with a tap in chance.

Keough seconds before had had a good save at the feet of Steve Maxwell and the burly striker had blitzed a shot on to the bar.

The visitors' task was made hard when Shaun Parton floored Aurelio Vidmar with an elbow and was sent off in 70 minutes.

Melta then made it mission virtually impossible with a fine solo goal three minutes later.

Aurelio Vidmar's younger brother Tony came on in 72 minutes for Maxwell and celebrated with the last nail in Sunshine's coffin two minutes from time.

He sent a mishit shot past Keogh from the edge of the box.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Shillabeer, Tobin, Ianovich, Flounders, Melta, Santrac, Villani, Mullen (Clarkson 63), Maxwell (T. Vidmar 72), A. Vidmar.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keough, Waddell, Alevisos, Morley, Parton, Carter (Campell 67), Lennon (Kotzamichalis 75), Marth, Faulkner, Hasler, Latif.

Referee: Tom McRoe. Crowd: 2000.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 MARCONI 1 — KEITH GILMOUR

Olympic gained the upper hand in the second half, after Marconi opened the scoring in the 18th minute through the inimitable Zlatko Nastevski and had looked as if they would be able to go on with the job.

In fact, Tony Spyridakos had to brilliantly cut out a menacing Tom McCulloch and Gary Meier had to valiantly go low against Nastevski to dampen Marconi's ardour.

By the 39th minute Robert Ironside had forced the first of two damaging headers from Bob Catlin, with a low header against the run of play that brought up a 1-1 half-time scoreline.

Phillips, rejoicing in a first team place, showed Olympic the way by destroying Marconi's resolve with a determined foray up the left flank.

Then in the 61st minute, he hit a powerful drive from outside the box that took a deflection from Gerry Gomez and gave Catlin no chance.

Abbas Saad for Olympic and Peter Katholas for Marconi both had opportunities before Polak sealed it all up Olympic's way.

Catlin split the ball and Polak was on hand to stroke it home for a deserved 3-1 victory.

Olympic meets holders Apia Leichhardt in one semi-final, with other winner, Adelaide City, to play the winner of South Melbourne-Heidelberg, played next Wednesday.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Barrett, Koch, Spyridakos (Pontidas 82m), Hooker, Phillips, Lee, Ironside, Edwards (McGarry 75m) Saad, Polak.

MARCONI: Catlin, Carter, de Marigny, Gomez, Wheatley, Colaguiri (Colucci 75m), McCulloch, Nastevski, de Jong, Katholos, Lowe.

Referee: P. Spiers. Crowd: 3056.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That two crowds of over 40,000 made the Australian tour by an English amateur side in 1937 a huge success?

★★★

St George gives out perfumes

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE on Friday night, at its match against Adelaide City at the St George Stadium, will have promotional girls giving out special $25 gift vouchers from YVES ROCHER manufacturers of cosmetics from natural plants.

At half time, a major prize of $300 worth of YVES ROCHER products will be drawn for some lucky spectator.

Also at halftime, there will be a special demonstration in martial arts combat by black belt champions, highlighting the finer points in Tai Kwon Do.

Anzac Day Tues April 25

1ST DIVISION

Penrith Uruguay v Polonia at Cook Park 5pm & 6.45pm.

2ND DIVISION

Bankstown v North Shore Utd at Potts Park, Bathurst '75 v Orange Waratah at Carrington Park, Campbelltown Vikings v Gladesville Hby at Bensley Road, Dulwich Hill v Waverley S.C. at St George Stadium, S.S.C Yugal v Sydney Macedonia at Mona Park, Granville Chile v Mount Druitt at Garside Park, Fairy Meadow United v Manly Warringah at Brandon Park.

3RD DIVISION

Rooty Hill v Central Coast at Herald Reid Res, Southern Dists v Pt Hacking at Ernie Smith Res.

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Warringah shocks leaders Melita

MELITA Eagles huffed and puffed, toiled and fussed but could do little more than earn a point after a 1-1 draw with Warringah Freshwater at Melita Stadium on Saturday.

The game ended on a sour note as Melita players besieged referee Kevin Tooke to award a penalty after Greg Brown and keeper Dragan Pupovac collided close to Warringah's goal line in the sixth minute of injury time.

"One minute I was on my feet and the next thing I was on the ground," said Brown.

The Melita forward stopped short of claiming he was brought down.

"I went for the ball and managed to land a hand on it," came the reply from the Warringah keeper.

Mr Tooke appeared to blow his whistle for fulltime just before the incident in which Brown had broken through.

N.S.W. FIRST DIVISION with ALEX VESIC

Despite a torrent of abuse from the crowd, Mr Tooke would not relent and players continued to jostle him as he left the ground.

It was the fifth draw in a row between the two sides.

Despite the uproar at the end, few would complain about the standard of play. It was fast and furious with Melita holding the ace cards throughout but failing to capitalise.

Brown was first to offend when a Wayne Pearce header set the Melita forward on his way. But he went wide, hesitated and eventually made the cross which was cleared.

An imaginative through ball by Jorge Cerro found his brother Gustavo racing into the clear after 20 minutes.

Gustavo cooly rounded Pupovac before slamming home a low angled shot.

Minutes later Andrew Callanan was set free on the edge of the box but he failed to control the ball and the chance went begging.

Despite missed chances Melita looked to be in full control.

Then came the shock equaliser in the 43rd minute.

A long Pearce throw found Jimmy Campbell who fed an unmarked Hilton Phillips.

LENNY VIAL

Phillips' first time shot was too much for Alex McPherson.

It was all Melita in the second period with Warringah defending grimly.

Lenny Vial was in the clear in the 57th and 89th minutes and should have settled all the arguments but for some poor finishing.

Warringah had Pupovac and Alan Dean to thank for the well earned point.

Pupovac was superb in goal while Dean blotted out Melita's star striker Brown.

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson, Cabasi (Versi 66m), Williams, Barrios, Gonzalez, Callanan, J Cerro, G Cerro, Vial, Gimenez (Farrugia 77m), Brown.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Pupovac, Pearce, Knight, McCue, Dean, Sharp, Campbell, Etherington (Pillemer 85m), Phillips, Perisse (Cimarosti 75m), Stuart.

Sharks welcome Gray home

SUTHERLAND Shire Soccer Sharks welcomed their president Peter Gray from an extended business trip to Singapore with a well deserved 2-0 win over Canberra Croatia at Seymour Shaw Park on Saturday.

"I didn't fly all this way to see them lose," said an elated Mr Gray, who arrived in Sydney with two hours to spare before the kick-off.

His effort was matched by that of the Sutherland players.

They showed some scintillating stuff at the start with Roy Cotton and Daryl Sharpe prominent.

Sharpe, one of the newest products of the Sutherland Shire school of football, was menacing early. His superb drive was brilliantly tipped over the bar by Tony Giannasca in the third minute.

Two minutes later and Sharpe was in the thick of things again. His left footer was deflected for a corner as Giannasca fell hopelessly aiming to cover the near post.

Canberra slipped behind in the 10th minute as Steve Meades chipped in from the edge of the penalty area for Cotton to race in and head under the crossbar.

Sutherland should have increased their lead in the 32nd minute as Paul McFadden found some space to face the keeper.

His shot was smartly saved by Giannasca but the rebound fell to the feet of Meades who skied his shot well over the bar.

McFadden atoned for his miss by supplying the pass which was well taken by Sharpe in the 40th minute to give Sutherland a 2-0 halftime scoreline.

Sutherland retreated, content to defend their lead and almost paid dearly for it as Marko Perinovic, the league's leading scorer, started to create some space.

He raced past Paul Edmonds and Peter Terry before cutting back for Zoran Pratezina, only to see his midfielder slam a first time shot well over the bar.

Canberra continued to dominate in the second period and Tom Sermanni was in the clear in the 53rd and 57th minutes but his finishing left a lot to be desired, particularly after so much hard work by Perinovic.

Perinovic had one chance in this match as Edmonds and Terry combined to stop him. He wriggled free at the far post in the 61st minute but managed to screw his header wide.

Tony Lemezina in the 74th, then Sermanni in the 77th, wasted good openings as the game drew to a close with Paul Dart having yet another fine game in goal for the Sharks.

Canberra were only a shadow of the team that blasted Wollongong Macedonia last week.

"We were missing Jason Dunn, Gary Cole and Ray Junna but I am not going to take that as an excuse," said Canberra coach Jimmy Shoulder.

"A couple of my men appear to be playing well when things are going smoothly but once you are behind they fall by the wayside.

"That is the time when I miss players such as Ray and Jason."

ALAN REIS

SUTHERLAND SHIRE: Dart, Hutchison, Sellar, Terry, Edmonds, O'Shea, Meades, Christodolou (Leney 55m), McFadden, Cotton, Sharpe.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Giannasca, Marcina, Mazis, Fiorese, Young, Glavinic, Sermanni, Pratezina (Lemezina 46m), Perinovic, Reis, Casali.

20 YEARS AGO

□ **A new club, NEPEAN UNITED, was formed in Sydney. They will play in the Nepean District Association, and have engaged Harry Hill as their coach.**

★★★

□ **GEORGE BLUES, Apia's new Scottish forward, arrived from South Africa to join the club.**

★★★

□ **ENVER BEGOVIC resigned as president of Melbourne Croatia after four years in office, citing business commitments.**

Sharks challenge for the lead

SUTHERLAND Shire will be full of fire as they line up against Newcastle Austral at Austral Park on Sunday.

Two wins and a draw in the last three matches have elevated Sutherland to second place on the league ladder and they have a chance to consolidate against lowly Newcastle.

In the last two years Newcastle have failed miserably against Sutherland losing all four league matches.

With Roy Cotton and Daryl Sharpe firing on all cylinders and Paul McFadden finding his new surroundings to his liking, the Sharks are well prepared in the striking line.

And defenders Paul Edmonds and Peter Terry are in outstanding form with Paul Dart in superb touch in goal.

Newcastle will have to work overtime if they are to succeed this Sunday.

Wollongong Macedonia will tackle Avala at Kelly Park with the knowledge that this game is as good as a grand final.

Macedonia have spent a sizable sum to have a competitive side in 1989 and challenge for the title but results have not been forthcoming so far.

Melita Eagles, playing some top football but failing to score goals, will be all out to swamp Rockdale Ilinden at Melita Stadium on Sunday.

The Eagles will welcome back Aytek Genc after an injury kept him out last Saturday but they might lose Greg Brown following two dismissals recently.

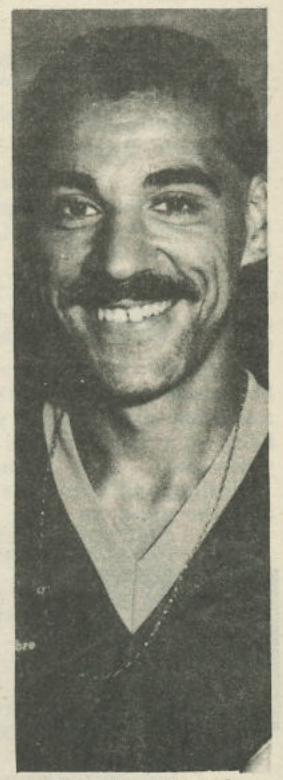
Melita have a fine record against Rockdale winning three matches with one drawn in the last two seasons.

Uruguay Penrith will have to pull out all stops to keep Canberra Croatia's Marko Perinovic scoreless at Cook Park.

Carlos Zabala has the tough task to stop the tall striker.

Inter Monaro have another chance to collect both points at the Marco Polo Ground, this time against the visiting Canterbury.

Warringah Freshwater, riding high after some strong performances in the opening rounds, will be playing for a place in top four when they face Polonia at Cromer Park on Sunday.


HILTON PHILLIPS

Hilton Phillips will be leading the charge for Warringah with Jean Marc Perisse showing some fine skills in the middle of the park. Warringah have demonstrated some stubborn resistance at the back and Dragan Pupovac along with Steve Knight and Alan Dean must surely be the backbone of their success.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

N.S.W.

This Week's Matches

SATURDAY APRIL 22

2ND DIVISION

Waverley SC	vs Campbelltown Vik'	Waverley Oval

3RD DIVISION

Uni of NSW	vs Mt Pritchard	Little Bay Oval

SUNDAY APRIL 23

1ST DIVISION

Inter Monaro	**vs Canterbury**	**Marco Polo**
Warringah F'water	**vs Polonia**	**Cromer Park**
Wollongong Mac.	**vs Avala**	**J.J. Kelly 3.30pm**
Melita Eagles	**vs Rockdale Ilinden**	**Melita Stadium**
Penrith Uruguay	**vs Canberra Croatia**	**Cook Park**
Newcastle Austral	**vs Sutherland Shire**	**Austral Park 2.30pm**

2ND DIVISION

Gladesville H'by	vs Bathurst '75	Pioneer Park
Orange Waratah	vs Bankstown	Waratah S/ground
Sydney Macedonia	vs Dulwich Hill	Jensen Park
SSC Yugal	vs Fairy Meadow	Mona Park
North Shore Utd	vs Granville Chile	Parklands Reserve
Mount Druitt	vs Manly Warringah	Popondetta Park

3RD DIVISION

Southern Districts	vs Canterbury District	Ernie Smith Reserve
Port Hacking	vs Concordia	Seymour Shaw Park
Rosebery Portugal	vs Hills Shire	Erskineville Oval
Rooty Hill/West Utd	vs Moorebank L/pool	Harold Reid Reserve
Blacktown United	vs Central Coast	Francis Park

Kick off times: First grade 3pm, Under 19 1pm, unless otherwise stated.

See a top State League match this week!

Hendo rumour scotched

KEITH GILMOUR

RUMOURS that former Socceroo and Marconi star Tony Henderson had been sacked as coach of Avala First Division club have no foundation, according to the club's secretary-manager, Jack Cirjanic.

Tony Henderson and Bobby Catlin celebrating Marconi's 1988 NSL title.

The story has been doing the rounds, but Mr Cirjanic says that his committee is delighted by the way Henderson has approached his duties.

"Tony is a real professional. He has has handled his tasks in the right manner, particularly as he has had to build an entirely new team, apart from only about three players who remained from 1988." he stated.

The club expects early progress on the grandstand which is to accomodate aproximately 2000 people at the new Avala Stadium, located at the Serbian National Centre at Bonnyrigg.

Located in Sydney's south western suburbs, Bonnyrigg is in the Fairfield City Council area, which already accomodates top soccer clubs Marconi and Sydney Croatia.

Avala has a proposal in council's hands for use of a further five acres that adjoin the new stadium.

"If we secure this land it will be a huge advantage to Avala as well as the local community," Mr Cirjanic added.

Meanwhile the club is continuing its operations on Knight Park. The new complex could even be ready for use early in the second round.

"This year Avala gained the services of goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse from Sydney Croatia," Mr Cirjanic said.

"Having played 24 times for Australia, including 10 full internationals, he certainly was a great capture. Recently he saved two penalties in succéssive games.

"Andy Brockbank was another big signing, and he is giving everything from the left-back position.

"We paid Blacktown City $2500 for 19 year-old Steve Berry, and he rewarded us with a goal when we beat Canberra Croatia 3-1 in the league.

"Vince Nastoski, formerly with Rockdale and Wollongong Macedonia has plenty of skill in the midfield and is a popular figure with the fans.

"Add to that Irish defender Denis Rix, who is still only 22, and David Fitzharris and the rest and we are beginning to put things together."

Polonia grinds to a halt

BY GRAHAM COOKE

POLONIA's early season run came to a halt in the mud at the Marco Polo Ground on Saturday when it went down 1-0 to Inter Monaro.

The 50th minute goal from long-serving midfielder Angelo Ambrosino gave the home side a lead it deserved at the time although by the final whistle Polonia would have considered itself unlucky it did not come away with a point.

It was denied by an excellent defensive display in which Monaro goalkeeper Manuel Notaras and full back Toplica Popovich were outstanding.

Notaras saved his side in the closing minutes when he dived at the feet of David Caruso, seeking treatment for the knock he took only after ensuring the ball was clearing.

Popovich did not put a foot wrong, and two surging runs downfield had Polonia in trouble.

And the defender served beyond the normal call of duty 10 minutes from the end when he cut out a Craig Thompson shot that was heading into an empty net, colliding with the upright in the process.

The goal came five minutes after half-time, and it was largely a solo effort.

Ambrosino, pushing forward to support the attack, won the ball from a tackle on the edge of the penalty area, eluded a cluster of defenders and calmly slotted a shot past goalkeeper Derek Jenkins.

Walter Valeri said he was disappointed his team sat back after taking the lead.

INTER MONARO: Notaras, T. Popovich, Thompson, Santolin, Titilas, Carbone, Ambrosino, Djordjleski, Brennan (Janke 78), N. Popovich (Alchin 78), Giampaolo.

POLONIA: Jenkins, Chou (Caruso 69), M. Pratt, Lasek, Robertson, Andersen, Kulwicki, Thompson, Janic, Janduka (Gomez 78), D. Pratt.

Referee: G. Sanderson.

Avala win 2-0

Playing without Howard Tredinnick, Michael Devon and Brett Porter, the Novocastrians failed to match Avala's guile and speed and were lucky not to have been at least two goals down by halftime.

Avala continued to apply pressure and were rewarded after yet another corner kick by Vince Nastoski from the right. On this occasion Lovan was on the mark beating the keeper from some 10m with a fierce right foot drive.

Stephen Berry missed a sitter with two minutes remaining in the first period but atoned close to the end. He latched on to an Andrew Brockbank through ball to hit an unstoppbale 20m thunderbolt.

Newcastle were left to ponder their 1989 title quest sitting in last place and without a single goal to their name in four rounds.

NEWCASTLE: Prentice, Bowen, Jones, Achurch, McWhirter, Shell, Boogaard, Calmakamis, Bland, Holden, Elphick.

AVALA: Woodhouse, Quarmby, Brockbank, Henderson, Ashton, Berry, Nastoski, Gendle (McBreen 81m), Ackerley (Fitzharris 81m), Lovan.

NSW State League Div 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melita Eagles	4	3	1	0	11	1	7
Sutherland	4	2	1	1	5	2	5
Avala	4	2	1	1	5	2	5
Polonia	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
W'gah Freshwater	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Canberra Croatia	4	2	0	2	5	7	4
Inter Monaro	4	2	0	2	3	8	4
Canterbury	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Rockdale Ilinden	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
W'gong Macedonia	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
Penrith Uruguay	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Newcastle Austral	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

U/19

Canberra Croatia	4	4	0	0	12	2	8
Avala	4	2	1	1	10	5	5
Rockdale Ilinden	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Melita Eagles	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Sutherland Shire	4	2	0	2	7	7	4
Polonia	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Warringah F'water	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Wollongong Mace	3	1	0	2	3	6	2
Canterbury	3	1	0	2	4	8	2
Inter Monaro	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
Newcastle Austral	3	0	2	1	2	6	2
Penrith Uruguay	3	0	0	3	1	10	0

Results

MELITA 1 (G Cerro) WARRINGAH FRESHWATER 1 (H Phillips), NEWCASTLE 0 AVALA 2 (S.Berry, P Lovan), INTER MONARO 1 (A Ambrosino) POLONIA 0, SUTHERLAND 2 (R Cotton, D Sharpe) CANBERRA CROATIA 0.

Top Scorers

4: Perinovic (Canberra), 3: Brown (Melita), 2: Parison (Canterbury), Giampaolo (Monaro), Genc, Versi (Melita), Beamer (Polonia), McFadden. Cotton (Sutherland), Bourke (Penrith), Porter (Rockdale), Thornthwaite (Wolongong), Berry (Avala),

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ROUND 14

FRIDAY APRIL 21			
St George	v	Adelaide City	St George Stad 7.30pm
SATURDAY APRIL 22			
Sydney Croatia	v	South Melbourne	Croatian S.C. 2.30pm
Melbourne City JUST	v	Marconi	Schintler Res 2.30pm
SUNDAY APRIL 23			
Heidelberg	v	Melbourne Croatia	Olympic Village 2.30pm
Apia L'hardt	v	Sydney Olympic	Lambert Park 2.30pm
Blacktown City	v	Wollongong City	Gabbie Stad 2.30pm
Preston Make	v	Sunshine G.C.	Olympic Park 2.30pm

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

BLACKTOWN 6 (Suman 3, Welsh 2, Mannix) ADAMSTOWN 1 (McQuarrie), AIS 2 (Eldridge 2) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Telisman), MARCONI 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0, APIA 2 (Restaino, Franze) WOLLONGONG 1 (Villella).

Syd Olympic	11	8	3	0	30	7	19
Marconi	13	6	4	3	20	11	16
Wollongong	12	6	3	3	21	15	15
Syd Croatia	12	6	0	6	27	21	12
AIS	11	5	2	4	17	18	12
St George	11	4	2	5	13	17	10
Blacktown	12	4	1	7	25	28	9
APIA	11	3	3	5	13	27	9
Adamstown	11	1	0	10	9	31	2

Sat April 22: AIS v Adamstown at Bruce Stadium 3pm
Sun April 23: St George v AIS at St George Stadium 12.15pm
Apia v Olympic at Lambert Park 12.15pm
Blacktown v Wollongong at Gabbie

Bleiberg cautiously confident

BY GREG BLAKE

MIRON Bleiberg is nothing if not pragmatic about his tenure as the new boss of struggling Heidelberg.

As he says, it is not a game of sentiment and if he fails to lift the Bergers from the foot of the table, he knows he'll be out of business just as Jim Tansey was before him.

"It (getting sacked) will happen to me again and it will happen to Jim (Tansey) again," he told ASW this week.

"If you're not tough enough to accept that, then you shouldn't be a coach."

Bleiberg knows from experience just how ruthless the business can be.

The articulate Israeli secured three trophies for Melbourne Croatia in just six months during 1985/86.

But despite winning the Dockerty Cup, Buffalo Gold Cup and Ansett Challenge Shield in quick succession, a poor league run early in 1986 was enough to see him out of a job.

Ironically, he lost the Melbourne Croatia position to Terry Hennessey who, in turn, lost his subsequent job at Heidelberg to Jim Tansey late last year.

Bleiberg has now come the full circle in what he calls the game of coaching musical chairs, and has replaced Tansey at Olympic Village.

And he has no qualms about filling the shoes of the much-liked Tansey.

"I'll still say hello to Jim because I know, and he knows, that what happened goes with the job," he explained.

"When I finish at a club on good or bad terms, whether it was my fault or not, I'll still try and stay on good terms.

"I was very successful at Melbourne Croatia, but I lost the job there after just three or four bad results.

"But I figure what has happened, happened and that's all there is to it.

"I still have lots of friends at Croatia, as I have at Polonia and Croydon."

Bleiberg isn't being callous or ruthless when he says that "none of his players are up to it" at this stage of the season.

He believes what is good for him is good for his charges as well and he justifies his summation by pointing out Heidelberg's lousy placing on the NSL table.

"I don't wish to change the players — they are good boys," he says.

"But the fact is that the team is on the bottom of the ladder and therefore we must improve the team."

Bleiberg looked to have reversed Heidelberg's fortunes when his first match in charge saw the Bergers triumph 2-0 at home against Adelaide City.

But Bleiberg put that result down to the change of coach and the initial burst of enthusiasm bought about by that change.

The most recent loss to Wollongong City was not totally unexpected, he claims.

As he sees it, his mission is to reshape the Heidelberg team over the current fortnight's break.

"I want to take maximum advantage of the break and use it as a mini pre-season," he told ASW.

Stuart Stevenson and Garry McDowall, who both came into the side for the Adelaide City game, were under-done for their first game, according to Beleiberg.

"They will improve 100 percent in the weeks to come," he believes.

"Hopefully, we will have Ronnie Campbell in the team soon too.

"And according to reports, Paul McDowall (Garry's brother, from Scottish club East Fife) is big, strong and solid and should be quite an acquisition."

Bleiberg admitted Heidelberg was trying to secure Socceroo number one Jeff Olver from Melbourne Croatia after having decided to terminate the services of Yakka Banovic.

Bleiberg said there had been negotiations between Heidelberg and Melbourne Croatia, but Croatia had yet to respond to the offer from Olympic Village.

"But if they say no, we'll have to look elsewhere for a goalkeeper because we can't afford inexperience in the situation we are in," he said.

"Mike (Chatzitrifonas) is a good boy, but he's young and we don't want to have to rely on just him."

Bleiberg isn't prepared to make any rash predictions on Heidelberg's future just yet.

According to him, the situation is bad but not hopeless.

Miron Bleiberg directs traffic at training. Can his expertise save the ailing Bergers?

Merrick would fit the bill

BY GREG BLAKE

WITH the spate of recent coaching sackings at NSL level (Ilija Dimoski and Jim Tansey), it surprises me that one name which hasn't been mentioned as a potential candidate for any of the jobs is that of former Preston Makedonia coach Ernie Merrick.

When the positions came up for grabs — and you can bet there'll be a few more before the end of the season — Merrick's name was not even mentioned when the press speculated on coaching changes.

And yet Merrick, one of the youngest NSL coaches when he took over at Preston in 1987 from Bill Murray, is one of the best credentialled around.

He took bottom-of-the-table Preston to runner-up spot in the league in 1987 during a memorable run which included a splendid late-season victory over eventual champion Apia Leichhardt.

Last season, he guided the club to the Buffalo Cup final, but was axed after the team got away to a disappointing start in the NSL, with just four draws from its first eight games.

But all up, Merrick lost just six of his 23 games in charge at Makedonia and I can't understand why he's not been approached to take over any team since.

Merrick's background includes three stints as assistant-coach at Doveton when it finished third in the State League after going undefeated for its first 17 matches of the year in its initial season in the competition, and assistant at Frankston Pines when it was State League runner-up.

He has a graduate diploma in sports science, has a bachelor of education in physical education (including soccer coaching) and has done his levels 1,2 and 3 in coaching in South Australia.

It doesn't surprise me that Merrick has been overlooked, though.

Men like Ken McKendry, Jim Rooney, Ian Wallace, Bill Murray, and several others, are out of jobs or have been snubbed when the plum appointments come around for one reason or another.

Vic refs rise to the occasion

BY GREG BLAKE

VICTORIAN referees received some good news recently when it was announced that the various Victorian leagues had agreed to allow significant fee increases for the 1989 season.

The depleted ranks of Vic whistlemen hope the long overdue fee increases will encourage new referees into the system.

Negotiations for the new fees were done on the undertaking that no further increases will be sought for at least two years.

The referees' pay rise comes on the heels of a new appointment system instigated by the referees association, which they hope will go some way to ensuring a "fair go" for all the local whistlemen.

Nine panels of referees have been created on the basis of performances last year, with Panel 1 the top level, down through Panel 9.

Anyone interested joining Melbourne's refereeing fraternity should phone Soccer House during business hours on 537 2533.

The system will also be flexible enough to allow a senior referee to take charge of a "more difficult" game from a lower grade if the situation dictates such a move.

The new schedule of fees for Victorian referees is:

competition	new fee	was
State League	$90	$62
Vic.Div.One	$80	$50
Vic.Div.Two	$70	$45
Vic.Div.Three	$60	$40
Vic.Div.Four	$50	$40
Provisional League	$50	$40
Amateur League	$40	$30

Waiting over for Campbell

BY GREG BLAKE

SOCCER Life has taken a few cruel twists for Ronnie Campbell in recent times, but certainly the toughest twist of all came when he was holidaying in his native Scotland in the off-season.

Campbell was trying to keep fit by playing in series of friendly games back home and it was during one of those, playing for Dunfirmline reserves, that he went over on his leg and damaged his knee.

When he hobbled off the plane back in Melbourne, little did he know that by the half-way mark of the 1989 season he'd still be sitting it out.

Campbell, sacked by Preston Makedonia late last year, had been approached by Sydney Croatia, South Melbourne Hellas and Blacktown City about playing NSL in '89.

But once the knee injury became common knowledge, interest quickly waned and the former Preston skipper and stop-gap coach was left to sit it out.

But finally the wait is nearly over, and Campbell can't wait to get back into action.

Although he hasn't signed for the club yet, Cambpell is almost certain to restart his NSL career with struggling Heidelberg.

"We've agreed to terms, but I won't be putting pen to paper for anyone until I get the go-ahead to play from the doctor," Campbell told ASW this week.

Campbell was expected to have exploratory surgery on the knee yesterday (Tuesday) and the former Western Australian, regarded as one of the most dynamic midfielders in the league in recent years, is hoping that should mean the end to whole business.

Just who Campbell will be playing for is another question.

Heidelberg obviously has the inside running, although Campbell himself is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Blacktown City boss Les Scheinflug hasn't dropped his interest in Campbell and was recently in touch with the talented midfielder to check on his progress.

With Preston Makedonia keen to secure the services of Zarko Odzakov, a swop deal between the two clubs has been suggested in the local press.

"I haven't really thought about a move to Sydney because my only priority is getting my knee right to play," says Campbell.

Meanwhile, Preston has appealed against the NSL tribunal's decision to reduce Campbell's transfer fee from $14,000 to $10,000.

Last week, Heidelberg tried to complete Campbell's signing by offering Preston the $10,000, but now both clubs are awaiting the result of the appeal.

Campbell still hasn't ruled out a return to Perth if worst comes to worst.

Campbell's wife is keen to go back to WA, and he admits he has had thoughts of returning west, with the sweetener being that a clause in his contract means Preston would have to release him for a bargain-basement $4,000 if he goes to a WA club.

Ron Campbell (right) comes crashing down in this incident from the Preston v St George game, courtsey of Mike Grbveski.

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

Sydney can't produce scoring Socceroos!

IT has me stumped how Sydney, numerically the heart of Australian junior soccer, has failed to produce its fair share of Socceroo goalscorers over the years.

In the past 20 years, over 90% of our regular Socceroo scorers have hailed from other centres.

Even back in the mid-sixties it was the Victorian trio of Atti Abonyi, Billy Vojtek and Tommy McColl who carried out the attacking tasks.

Adrian Alston (Wollongong), Branko Buljevic (Victoria), Ray Baartz (Newcastle) and Peter Ollerton (Victoria) followed, then came Gary Cole (Victoria), John Kosmina (South Australia), Eddie Krncevic (Victoria), David Mitchell (South Australia) and, more recently, Frank Farina (North Queensland and Canberra).

Even today, the leading new breed of strikers on a regular basis in the national team, with the exception of Graham Arnold and Scott Ollerenshaw, are again Victorian — Paul Trimboli and Warren Spink.

Perhaps it is a coincidence that few Sydney juniors become regular scorers for the Socceroos . . . perhaps there is a more obvious reason which completely eludes me . . .

• Seeking a club is former Saints guest star Trevor Morgan, who is now with Bolton.

Trevor impressed more than the Saints when he was here several years ago.

Trevor, at 32, feels he has a couple of good seasons left and those interested may contact him through Ron Tilsed — Sydney 319 2777 during working hours.

• Victor Fernandez Jr, 21-year-old son of former Saints star Victor Fernandez, is training with Menotti's River Plate club in Buenos Aires.

Victor is spending a year in Argentina, where he was born before coming to Australia as a two-year-old.

Colombian star CARLOS VALDERRAMA

NATIONAL League fans having trouble understanding just how their teams are running in the lopsided nature of the league due to a host of postponements can get a better picture by calculating the number of points lost so far . . .

On this basis the current National League table would look like this:

Marconi (four points dropped)
St George (seven points dropped)
Preston (9)
Sydney Croatia (9)
South Melbourne (10)
Apia (10)
Blacktown (11)
Sunshine (13)
Melbourne Croatia (13)
Wollongong (14)
Melbourne City (15)
Sydney Olympic (15)
Adelaide City (16)
Heidelberg (19)

TWENTY YEARS AGO

□ WILLEM SCHROIF, the goalkeeper of the Czechoslovakian national team and star of the 1962 World Cup, returned to rejoin Slavia Melbourne after his contract with FK Austria expired.

Bearzot — *It's Europe's turn again*

THE finals of World Cup Italia 90 kick off on June 8, 1990 and speculation is already rife as to who we all fancy for world sport's ultimate prize . . .

As we all know, only one South American nation has won in Europe — Brazil in Sweden in 1958.

I doubt whether the South Americans will win in Italy, with my favourites for the title being hosts Italy, West Germany (if they qualify), Holland (if they qualify, also) and the Soviet Union.

Italy's World Cup-winning manager Enzo Bearzot also feels it will be a European victory in Italy as he explains in the following article published compliments of IL MONDIALE-ITALIA '90 . . .

—o—

Bearzot writes:

I can safely say that I am well acquainted with the Argentine national side, since Italy played them in all three editions of the World Cup in which I coached Italy.

I have therefore been able to keep track of the development of Argentine soccer over the last decade, in which the South American side won two world titles.

In 1978, as well as having home advantage, Argentina could boast an excellent line-up, especially in terms of pure technical ability.

But the secret of that team lay up front. Luque, Bertoni and Kempes (top scorer in the tournament with six goals) made up an unpredictable trio, and scoring came easily to Menotti's team, what with the variety of attacking possibilities the three strikers could offer.

We should not forget, however, that a player of the calibre of Ardiles was operating behind them.

Italy was the only team that managed a victory against this Argentine side about to become world champions, despite widespread criticism from the usual people who regard Italian soccer as synomymous with catenaccio and lack of imagination.

In the exhilarating Mundial in Spain — exhilarating for us, of course! — it was a different story.

Although Maradona's genius was beginning to shine through, the Argentines relied on him alone in the attacking department.

They could no longer count on a real natural striker like Kempes, whose best playing days were clearly over.

So, to stop Menotti's team, you just had to put a defensive straitjacket on Maradona.

Belgium managed to do this in the opening match, and later so did we (in the person of Gentile). It was then that our march to the title really got under way.

The Argentine side that I saw in Mexcio was a cut above the other two.

The superiority of Bilardo's team was not only technical, but tactical too.

In fact, the Argentines had started to draw inspiration from the European game.

The defence was modelled on the Italian system; indeed the Argentines had greater defensive cover since their sweeper, Brown, unlike the Italian *libero*, Scirea, systematically eschewed all sorties upfield.

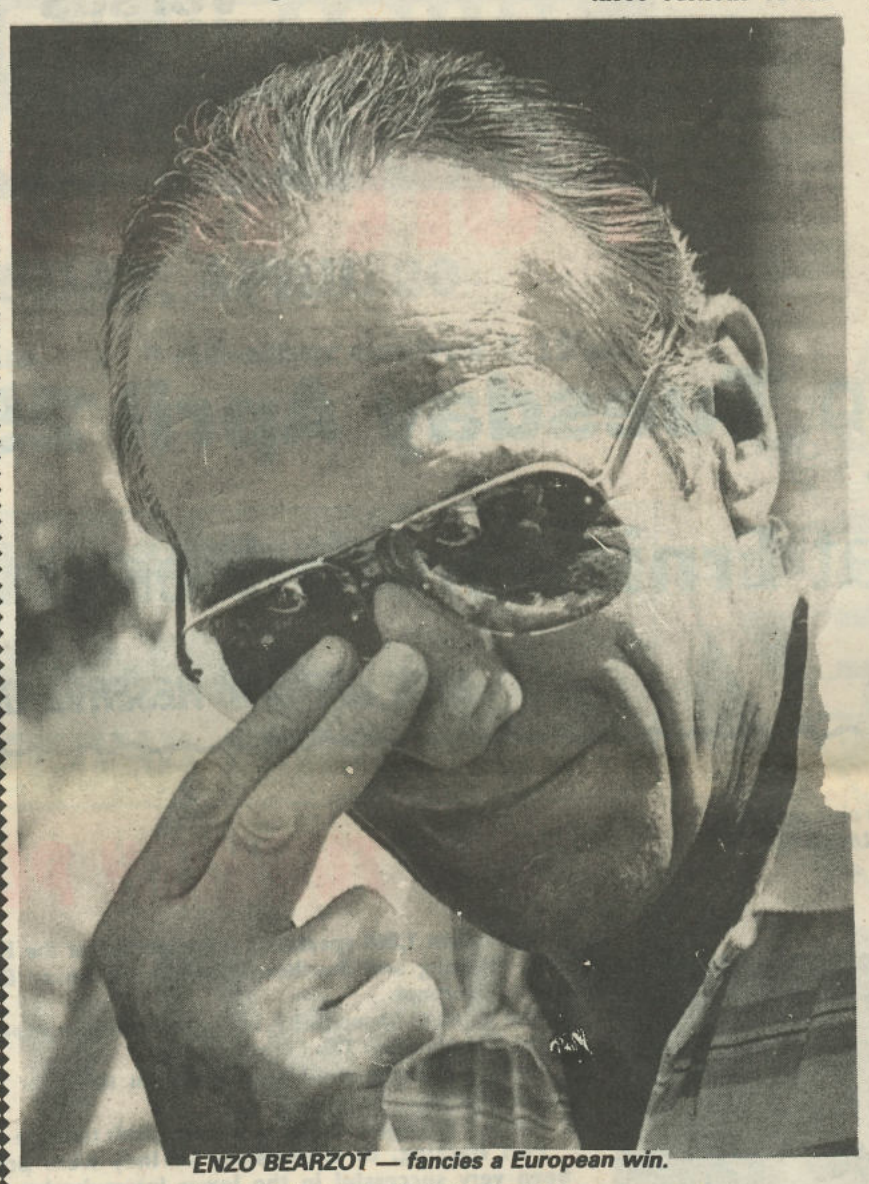
Midfield play was orchestrated by a group of players able to take on defensive or attacking work as the occasion demanded.

Up front, a superlative Maradona was backed up by two mobile attackers (Valdano and Burruchaga), capable of creating space and laying on openings for their team-mates.

The real Argentina of 1990 will be revealed only a few months before the World Cup.

Bilardo is entitled, I think, to feel optimistic about his team's chances of retaining the trophy; the technical attributes needed have never been in short supply in Argentina.

But, despite the fact that there are still 15 months to go before the tournament kicks off, time during which we may see new talents emerge or greater players fade, I am convinced that the World Cup in Italy will be won by a European side.



ENZO BEARZOT — fancies a European win.

GEORGE YARDLEY . . . NOW KEVIN

• **For those who think time is not passing by . . .**

Had a call from former Sydney City and St George striker George Yardley the other night, and among other things he sent his best regards to all his Australian associates.

George, a prolific scorer with Saints and Hakoah, is seeking a club for his 22-year-old Australian-born son, Kevin, who is playing for Cowdenbeath in Scotland.

Kevin may be contacted at 55 Skibo Avenue, Glen Rothes, Fife, Scotland, or by phoning 0592-772387.

For those who remember toddler Kevin, he is now 185cm tall and like his dad, a striker.

If he is half as good as George, he would be an asset for any Australian club.

World Cup qualifiers

• **Dates for the South American group two qualification matches, the winner meeting the winner of Oceania for a spot in Italia '90 are:**

August 20	COLOMBIA v ECUADOR
August 27	PARAGUAY v COLOMBIA
Sept 3	ECUADOR v COLOMBIA
Sept 10	PARAGUAY v ECUADOR
Sept 24	COLOMBIA v PARAGUAY
October 1	ECUADOR v PARAGUAY

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS UNITED SPECIAL

Turkish Community

Southern Districts Utd

versus

Port Hacking

on Tuesday April 25 Anzac Day

at Ernie Smith Reserve, Liverpool

KICK OFF 3PM RESERVE GRADE 1PM

Southern Dists club president
VIDET KURAGAL

BIROL SERTBAS —
Southern Districts captain

BIG TURKISH PLAY-OFF

More than 1,000 spectators are expected at the big local derby between Port Hacking and Southern Districts on Anzac Day at Ernie Smith Reserve, Liverpool.

The Turkish community in Sydney now is represented by these two clubs in Federation Third Division.

Port Hacking entered Third Division this year and Southern Districts United last year.

Both teams are aiming to make the climb to more elevated leagues.

Port Hacking, or Greenisland as they were previously known, have been very successful in the lower intersuburban leagues, winning one competition after another in their route to the Third Division.

Its supporters are Turkish Cypriots.

Southern Districts is supported by immigrants who came from the country of Turkey. The club has only been recently formed.

Turkey has a population of 60 million. Some 40,000 of these have immigrated to Sydney.

Most of these arrived during the last two decades.

The Turkish Cypriot migration was considerably earlier, in the 1950s.

In the almost 40 years since that time the Turkish Cypriots have dispersed throughout Sydney and are partly assimilated into Australian society.

The 40,000-strong Turkish community, on the other hand, can be found mainly in the Auburn region.

Port Hacking, with its long established tradition through Greenisland, has a strong Turkish element on its playing staff, with the coach and almost all of its players being of Turkish or Turkish Cypriot origin.

Southern Districts has an English coach in Mike Johnson and players of several other nationalities, such as Aussies John Gregson, former Australian under 19 international, and Wayne Cootes, ex-Riverwood and Avala; Vietnamese Yang; Yugoslav-parented Uros Calic, plus Englishman Ray Carney, both ex-Avala.

The balance of the first team are of Turkish origin — young strikers Gurkan Tasdemir and Ozcan Karaca, stopper Levent Akdogan, fullback Karaca and Birol Sertbas.

Sertbas is captain of the team. He was signed from Melita, where he had been a successful midfielder during two seasons in first grade.

These exotic-sounding Turkish names may not be so strange to soccer followers in years to come.

Port Hacking supporters fancy their team to take out the honours in the first-ever Federation encounter between the two teams.

Its massive 12-0 win against Blacktown United, plus other early season wins, has its teamwork and confidence high.

Vice President
MESTUT TAVLU

JOHN GREGSON —
Australian Youth international

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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

IT has been a very mixed season for Sydney Croatia defender GRAHAM JENNINGS. This season was expected to provide a great cap for his illustrious international career, but a series of niggling injuries has upset his plans.

An injury he suffered prior to Australia's return World Cup game against New Zealand forced his withdrawal from the squad for last week's Israel game.

He expects to remain a big force with Sydney Croatia this year.

These days he has moved home back to Newcastle, travelling down to Sydney for home matches and training.

★★★

NO wonder JASON POLAK of Sydney Olympic was highly rated as an Australian sportsman of exceptional potential.

In tests taken at the Australian Institute of Sport only ex-Wimbledon tennis singles winner Pat Cash was faster than Polak over 10 metres.

★★★

THERE should have been no surprise when national coach Frank Arok called on DAVID MITCHELL for the game against Israel.

Leaving aside his Australian club career and deeds with the Socceroos, he has played in Europe with Glasgow Rangers, Eintracht Frankfurt, Feyenoord and now with promoted Chelsea, who will be in the English First Division in 1989/90.

★★★

CRAIG JOHNSTON has been turning his hand to surfing, along with Newcastle's other favorite sporting son, Mark Richards.

He badly missed water sport during his career in England football, and is making up for lost time.

On his return to Australia he joined the Steel City Malibu Club, and his board is decked in Liverpool colours complete with the club crest on the nose.

His job with Channel 9's Wide World of Sports means he is regularly commuting between Newcastle and Sydney.

And the good news for Craig is that his sister Faye, who was brain damaged when accidentally gassed whilst on holiday in Morocco a few years ago, is making sound progress.

★★★

A pity that Kiwi star BILLY WRIGHT didn't fit into the scheme of things with Blacktown City.

Now with Morwell Falcons in the Victorian State League, Wright scored expectionally fine World Cup goals for New Zealand against both Australia and Israel.

★★★

WATCH out for Marconi youngsters Paul and Klaus Okon, who are a talented duo with their Youth League team.

Father, Klaus senior, was a promient NSW State League player in past seasons.

KLAUS OKON

★★★

HEIDELBERG is expecting Paul McDowall from Scottish club East Fife within the next week.

McDowall, brother of Socceroo Garry, could be in the senior team straight away if reports about his ability are spot-on.

MELBOURNE CROATIA's impressive new Croatian Sports Centre will have television standard floodlighting before the end of the year.

The ground is already hailed as the best in Melbourne's western suburbs, and if planned developments go ahead in the months to come, it will soon rival Middle Park as Melbourne's best NSL club venue.

★★★

South Melbourne's finals potential will be sorely tested in the next month as it faces the most taxing run of any NSL club.

Hellas plays its next three league games away from home — against Sydney Croatia, Marconi and bogey club Sunshine.

★★★

WITH the demise of Brunswick Juventus, Sunshine George Cross takes over as Melbourne's oldest NSL club.

George Cross is 40 years old this year.

★★★

SA Italian clubs Adelaide City and Campbelltown are talking over the possibility of merger.

The clubs see that as a course for progress and development.

Talks so far have been beneficial and more are on the way.

★★★

ADELAIDE City fans probably should not hold their breaths waiting for South American signings ligning up for the club.

Former College players Roberto Rogoski, Roman Kowal and Roberto Parzajuk have joined the club.

But immigration officials are keenly following their case.

And City only is allowed two more visa players, anyway, as Milan Ivanovich already is with the club.

★★★

SOUTH MELBOURNE's gate of less than 1,000 for its recent home fixture against Blacktown was the club's worst league attendance for nearly five years.

South Melbourne officials are hoping Saturday fixtures for the club will be scrapped in future.

MARCONI is the best performed club in the NSL to the half-way mark and it is certainly the most feared at home.

To the end of round 13 Marconi was unbeaten at home with four wins and just one draw to its name in five outings at Marconi Stadium.

Only Sydney Croatia can match the unbeaten home record with three wins and two draws at the Croatian Sports Centre.

Preston, Melbourne Croatia, Wollongong and Blacktown have all lost just once at home, with Sydney Olympic at the opposite end of the scale, with just a single home win.

Olympic boasts the worst home record in the NSL, with a win, two draws and four defeats, whilst Adelaide City and top five team Apia Leichhardt have also scored only a single two-pointer at home.

★★★

JEAN-PAUL DE MARIGNY and wife Donna are receiving congratulations on the birth of baby Misha. "A great experience," said the happy father.

★★★

FORMER soccer star and administrator FRANK PARSONS is enjoying his retirement.

Formerly a Sydney headmaster, he now raises cattle on a property at Dondongalong, near Kempsey on the NSW North Coast.

In addition, he has a share in a stud farm in the same area.

"I find the scientific side of the venture a real challenge," said Frank.

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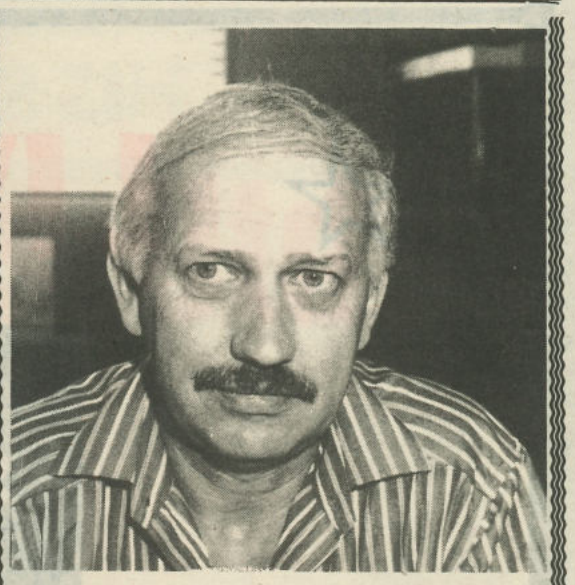
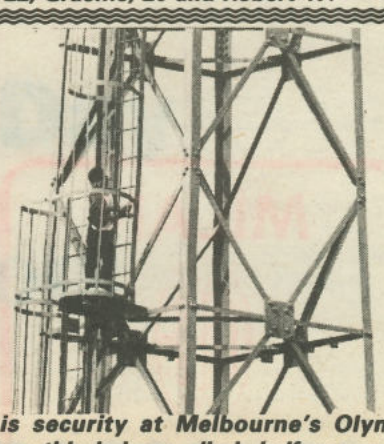


NEW South Australian general secretary Mike Wells is relishing the chance to be involved in football administration in his home state. London-born Wells, 52, is married to May. They have three children — Michelle, 22, Graeme, 20 and Robert 17.



Where is security at Melbourne's Olympic Park when this lad can climb halfway up the floodlights without any problems as the match between Preston and Sydney Croatia was in progress on April 9?

Bob Lawrie passes on

BY KEITH GILMOUR

FORMER Australian soccer captain and Queensland star Bob Lawrie died last week.

He was on holiday in Victoria, and died in his sleep as the result of a long-standing heart problem.

Lawrie first came to attention on the international scene on the 1948 Australian tour of New Zealand.

He became an automatic choice for Australia, appearing against the touring Hajduk Split team in all five tests the following year.

Lawrie, Gordon (Bunny) Nunn and Lex Gibb were the three Queenslanders to appear in the series.

Australian players of the day included: Goal: Norm Conquest, Jim Jenkins (and later Bill Mahoney), fullbacks: Joe Marston, Cec Drummond, Hugh Parkes, halves: Bill Wilson, Lex Gibb, Bob Lawrie, Vic Drennan (V), Bob Bignall, Kevin O'Neill, forwards: George Sanders, Alan Johns, Gordon Nunn, Ron Hughes, Ray Marshall, Jock McMahon, John Barr (V), Frank Parsons, George Russell, Harry Robertson.

Lawrie was a vital part of the Australian team on its 1950 South African tour.

He had a season in South Australia, and played two years in Sydney with then top side Leichhardt-Annandale at Lambert Park.

Whilst in England during the war, he turned out for Brentford.

Fellow-international and former NSW Soccer Federation president Frank Parsons said: "Bob Lawrie was the best midfielder here for many years.

"He was an excellent player and a very nice bloke."

"That's the way the cookie crumbles" could be Sydney Croatia striker Graham Arnold's falling as he takes the drop in a recent NSL game. The action was captured by JANUSZ KAMMA.

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GREG RUSSELL REPORTS

Many new faces in Stowell's Anzac Day Queensland squad

The 1987 Queensland state squad — only Martin Kirsopp, Rob Farrow and Alan Niven have been selected for this year's Anzac Day clash with NSW.

QUEENSLAND coach Bruce Stowell silenced his critics last week when he named a new-look state side, which includes the youngest player to be picked in the Queensland team for 17 years, to meet NSW at Perry Park on April 25.

The squad features only five players from the team which beat NSW 1-0 at Perry Park last year and has an average age of 24.8 years.

The Queensland squad is: Arno Bertogna, Rob Farrow, Martin Kirsopp, Nick Meredith, Russell Stewart (Lions), Gerry Lindsay, Jim McDonagh (North Star), Alan Niven (Mount Gravatt), Wayne Evans (Brisbane City), Stein Grodum (Easts), Peter Vogler (Ipswich United), Clayton Koch (Pine Rivers), Paul Halford, John Denham and Raphael Underwood (Gold Coast).

Prior to naming his team, Stowell had been the subject of pointed criticism from Olympic United coach Juan Cutillas, who claimed "the same old players'' would be named again.

He called on Stowell to give youngsters a go.

While Stowell dismissed Cutillas' criticism as superfluous as he failed to name any young players. But actions speak louder than words and Stowell left the critics with egg on their faces when he unveiled his new-look Maroons.

Koch, the younger brother of Sydney Olympic fullback John Koch, is the youngest player to be named in a Queensland squad since Steve Dolan, now the Grange Thistle coach, wore the Maroon as a 16-year-old in 1971.

On April 25, Koch will be 18 years, nine months 13 days, making him nearly two months younger than former Lions keeper Jason Kearton, now with Everton, who played for Queensland as an 18-year-old last year.

Koch was uncertain how to take his selection, reacting with a mixture of surprise and excitement.

''Just when I thought I was starting to get established in the senior ranks, I feel really young again,'' he said.

"I've just got to get in there and do my best."

Stowell said the inclusion of Koch was not a token gesture.

"I haven't selected him in the hope he might do something. He is in the squad because I have seen him performing consistenly well in recent weeks," he said.

Stowell rated the squad as the toughest he has had to pick since becoming Queensland coach five years ago.

''There were so many players out of form, while the vast improvement of the Gold Coast (who won the intercity series) forced me to think long and hard over which of their players to give a representative opportunity,'' he said.

While Stowell has been criticised for being loyal to those who have served him well in the past, this time he went for form and several big-names were omitted.

Dropped were fullback Frank Mengotti, the 1987 Queensland Player of the Year, striker Keiran Cooper, the leading XXXX League goalscorer for the past two seasons, central striker Mark Brusasco, the Coalstars player-coach whose selection chances were not enhanced by playing himself out of position in midfield at club level, and striker Bill McDermott, whose club, Easts, have had one of their slowest starts to a season ever.

Lions dominate the squad with five players. While it is one of the club's smallest representations in the Queensland side for years, two years ago they boasted 10 selections — five of the other 10 (Lindsay, McDonagh, Niven, Evans and Halford) have all had stints at Richlands.

Gold Coast's triple selection is reward for their victory in the intercity series.

Halford, the former New Zealand international, was always considered a selection certainty, but Denham, a fullback and also a Kiwi, played his way into the side in the intercity series as did Underwood, a rugged stopper and former Fijian youth international.

Lindsay's inclusion stamps him as the state team "Dame Nellie". It is the second time he has been drafted into the state team after it appeared his representative career was over.

Lindsay believes North star's current high-riding position in the XXXX League and their grand final success last year helped his selection.

''I thought I have had a slow start to the season, but you always look better in a team that is playing well like North Star at the moment,'' Lindsay said. "Making a state team comeback is becoming a bit of a habit, but one I don't mind."

The Queensland squad trained for the first time last Wednesday and will train again this week as well as a final match-eve medical and loosener, Stowell said the he had opted against organising a trial match.

"I will be using the session to work on particular things in certain areas," he said. "I also want to develop a camaraderie among the players, because I think the only way we can beat NSW is if we all believe in each other and in our ability to win."

Gamblers take title

THE Gold Coast Gamblers are the Queensland intercity champions, further underlining the region's potential to become the state's premier Soccer force.

Gamblers lost the final match of the series 1-0 to Brisbane, but took the overall championship on goal difference.

The Gold Coast, Brisbane and Ipswich all registered one win each, but the Gamblers clinched the series with a one-goal better difference, thanks to a 3-1 win over Ipswich.

Brisbane, who lost their first game 4-3 to Ipswich after leading 3-0 at halftime, needed to win the final match by two goals.

Gamblers coach Jim Selby, who guided the Gold Coast to an Ampol Cup final victory last year, said the intercity win was another step in the region's development.

"It's hard to feel like we have won after we have lost," he said after the 1-0 defeat by Brisbane, "but I think we have to look at what the intercity win means for Gold Coast and I am sure it will prove to be a tremendous boost.

"It shows players can stay on the Gold Coast and still gain recognition and prove themselves to be of equal standing to those in the XXXX League."

The final match, which was the last state team selection trial, was in grave danger of being postponed because of bad weather.

With state coach Bruce Stowell forced to name his squad this week, had the match not been played last Wednesday, then the point of it being played at all could have been questioned.

The generosity of Lions club in risking their manicured field enabled the fixture to go ahead. While the field was greasy, both teams showed spells of good football with the Gold Coast probably unlucky not to get a draw, or even a win, on the strength of a devastating final 20 minutes.

Gold Coast had a chance to go ahead just 40 seconds into the match when Paul Halford broke through a sleepy Brisbane defence and had only 'keeper Rob Farrow to beat, but shot over.

The near-goal sparked Brisbane into form and the home side dominated for the next 30 minutes. John Preston hit a screamer of a volley after good work from Nick Meredith, but Gamblers 'keeper Andrew blocked.

Kieran Cooper then had a shot cleared off the line while youngster Clayton Koch nearly curled in an attempt from the edge of the box.

The inevitable happened in the 40th minute when Brisbane's pressure finally paid off. Midfielder Cheetha Vosuga cleverly turned several defenders on the edge of the box, spun back the other way and chipped Atkins, who was off his line.

Brisbane made a storming start to the second half, chasing the second goal they needed to clinch the series.

Three minutes after the break defender Ronnie Yule put a freekick onto the underside of the crossbar, but saw it fly down and out of the goal; then five minutes later, Cooper struck the woodwork with a fierce shot and Yule hit the crossbar again with a header off a Meredith corner in the 73rd minute.

But the Gold Coast started finding holes in the Brisbane defence with Halford storming through on several occasions.

Wayward Gamblers shooting and resolute Brisbane defence enabled Mal Bland's side to hang onto the lead, which enabled them to salvage pride after their humiliating loss to Ipswich, but wasn't enough to clinch the series.

Cuba off again!

FORMER Penrith Uruguayan midfielder Frazier Cuba, who missed the start of the season because of a one-month suspension from last year, has been sent-off in his first match with Brisbane XXXX League club Olympic United.

Cuba, signed by Olympic this year but forced to watch his new club's opening four games from the bench, was ordered off after two yellow card offences in the match against North Star.

Olympic were beaten 4-0 and also had send-off defender Nick Moric, who was making his return after suspension.

Cuba was first cautioned by referee Henry Marron in the 60th minute for a wild tackle, then just seven minutes later made a deliberate handball to get his marching orders.

Moric, who had been sent-off a fortnight earlier for a scything tackle at Lions, was booked in the first half for a roughouse challenge, then was shown the red card for another in the second half.

Olympic coach Juan Cutillas offered no sympathy for either player, and insisted the club would not appeal, but instead would be issuing a stern warning to its entire squad that on-field irresponsibility would not be tolerated.

"I will not stand for this kind of play, and anyone who persists with it will be kicked out," he said. "Some players are continually losing their concentration and whole team is suffering."

BACKLOG

RAIN has given Queensland Soccer Federation secretary Jim Gilbert a 100-match headache!

That's the number of games which have been postponed over the past two weekends because of rain-sodden pitches as a result of torrential downpours generated by Cyclone Aivu.

All but two matches were cancelled on April 1 and 2, while about a third of the programme was washed out on April 8 and 9.

The washouts included a full XXXX League round and two matches of the next round.

Some teams, including Coalstars, Grange Thistle, Easts and Rochedale were left without matches for nearly three weeks.

VSF

FIRST DIVISION with Angelo Sticca

Resurgent Thomastown back on track

THOMASTOWN took another step to overcome its poor start to the season when a freakish goal gave it the points against Box Hill.

The goal came in the 74th minute when Thomastown's Nino Ragusa slammed a 25-metre drive which Russell Athersych managed to get his head to and push the ball past a beaten McKinlay in the Box Hill goal.

Thomastown, despite the win, have a real problem in the striking division with Saturday's two front men, Bobby McGuiness and George McMillan, seemingly not having the legs to escape the opposing defences.

Box Hill, for that matter, is really feeling the absence of George Campbell, who transferred to Fawkner two weeks ago.

Another significant point about the game was the poor condition of Partridge Reserve, with the grass being too high and the surface looking like it would be in real trouble come mid-winter.

THOMASTOWN: Janakievski, Mihailidis, Mihos, Hennessey, Higgins, Athersych, McMillan (Sinclair 65th) Dougherty, Cristaldo, Ragusa, McGuinness (Carfora 65th).

BOX HILL: McKinlay, Davidson, McLeod (81st McMorrow) Thomas, Hanley, McPhee, McArthur, Cooper, Alexander, Kennedy, Egan (69th Vasilopoulos).

ALTONA GATE 2 NORTHCOTE CITY 1

Altona Gate recorded its fifth victory of the season by winning a hard-fought game.

With the scoreline 0-0 at the interval, Altona had the opportunity to score at least half a dozen with the strong wind behind it in the second half.

Altona took the lead in the 49th minute thanks to a goal from Simon Micevski, who was left unmarked and gratefully took the opportunity to slip the ball past Turudia in the Northcote goal.

Gary McMullen increased Altona's lead when he rose to head home his fifth goal of the seaosn in the 63rd minute, but Northcote hit back almost immediately when Tsangas scored with a tremendous header.

Altona, despite its unexpected good start to the season, is creating a number of chances every week, but is only putting away a small percentage of these, which could prove costly later on in the season.

ALTONA GATE: Lee, Illioski, Momirovski, Markovski, Byrne, Kebakoski (Davie 79th), Asilmovski, Georgiuevski, McMullen, Micevski, Torevski.

NORTHCOTE CITY: Turudia, Bekiaris, Harris, Palmaricciotti, Constantinou, Kouremenos, Patiniotis, Thodis, Woodall, Carroll, Tsangas.

RINGWOOD CITY 1 CAULFIELD CITY 1

If Ringwood was ever going to win a match convincingly, it should have been against Caulfield.

The number of chances that went begging for Ringwood prompted even the most ardent Caulfield supporter to admit that their side was lucky to escape with a point.

Ringwood opened the scoring in the 40th minute when a shot from Davie was parried by Madjer to the waiting Cocker, who tapped home his first goal of the season.

Caulfield equalised nine minutes from time when Kenny Drakeford scored a well-taken goal to give the Blues a point.

RINGWOOD CITY: Blackley, Wemyss, Nolan, Cummings, Verniers, Morks, Muir, Wall, Cocker, Davie (Kennedy) Corvan.

CAULFIELD CITY: Madjer, Bitsonis, Kountouris, Theoharous, Fattore, Filipou, Zolatarev, Drakeford, Aretis (Hamakiotis), Pappas, Deligiannis.

FRANKSTON PINES 1 SPRINGVALE CITY 0

Springvale City's luck has been non-existent so far this season, but it is only a matter of time before Gus McLeod's charges hit their straps.

Frankston fought hard throughout the match, and it was 20 minutes from time when the Pines scored the all-important winner from the boot of Bothwell.

The win was a timely one for Frankston, whose performances had been disappointing to date.

FRANKSTON PINES: Davies, McLeod, Redecki, Watson, Weir, McDonagh, Drinoczky, Bothwell, Stirton, Dick, Ross.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Brian, Whyte, Bissinger, Reilly, Varechia, Livingstone, Fourna, Webster, Adams, Findlay, Rollerman.

GREEN GULLY 1 BULLEEN 2

Green Gully could not have wished for a better start to the game, scoring a goal after only two minutes.

The goal, however, was to be Gully's only highlight of a game which ended in the worst possible fashion for them when an own goal gave Bulleen the points.

Grimaud scored for Gully in the second minute with a spectacular 25-metre drive, which beat the diving Roccioletti.

Bulleen equalised in the 19th minute when Troglric received a throughball from Milosevic and shot past Sant.

Bulleen, whose inconsistent performances have seen it drop unnecessary points so far this season, had a stroke of luck in the 59th minute when Napoli's attempted clearance ended up in the Gully net after Lujic had driven in a low, hard cross.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Napoli, Grimaud, Wilson, McMillan, Cutler, Pender, McLennan, Farquahrson, Elsey, Falzon, Chetcuti.

BULLEEN: Roccioletti, Marson, Incantalupo, Ruccia, Curulli, Krajacic, Trogiric, Livingstone, Bozikas (Avian 82nd) Lujic, Milosevic.

FAWKNER 1 ST ALBANS 3

Fawkner's tale of woe continued when it was soundly beaten.

To make matter worse for the shell-shocked Fawkner, O'Dell was sent off, meaning Fakwner has had four players expulsed in the past four matches.

Thsi lack of discipline — the culmination of a long period of frustration for Colangeli's team — is only serving to make Fawkner's task more difficult.

St Albans proved to be too strong in all departments, and its goals came from Gagula, Morovic and Pondeljak, whilst for Fawkner it was "super-sub" Emmanuele who scored his third goal of the season.

FAWKNER: Barba, Beatty (Emmanuele 63rd) Cosentino, Schipano, Ferla, (Ferrer 70th), Tuffield, Sabatino, Hanna, O'Dell (sent off 66th) Stenson, Campbell.

ST ALBANS: Grgic, Babic, (86th Maretic) Dragovic, Kuzman, Bozic, Kuprasek, Colina Gagula, Morovic, Simovic, Pondeljak (Culina 61st).

JUVENTUS 5 POLONIA 1

Juventus continued its march towards the championship with a whitewash of unsettled Polonia.

Polonia, who lost the services of Jim McIntyre when he quit as coach early last week, appears to be in turmoil on and off the field.

Juventus, missing Herd, Patterson and Minichiello due to injury and suspension, fielded a team of youngsters, with Della Rocca De Amicis and Joe Montemurro all products of the youth team.

The fact that Juventus could perform so well despite the absence of this midfield trio is a sign of the depth at Manfred Schaefer's disposal.

Juventus scored 10 minutes from the interval when De Amicis accepted a pass from Charlie Egan.

Further goals came from Lane, Belic and two from Egan, whilst for Polonia Bonk scored from the penalty spot.

JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, Coady, De amicis, Belic, Lane, Della Rocca, Montemurro, Egan, Glockner, Klepac (Triuicio 55th).

POLONIA: D'Antonio, Lipiarski, Bilchartz, Nelson, Innes, Lakic, Czapnik, Baran, De Bono, Bonk, Bellegrinos.

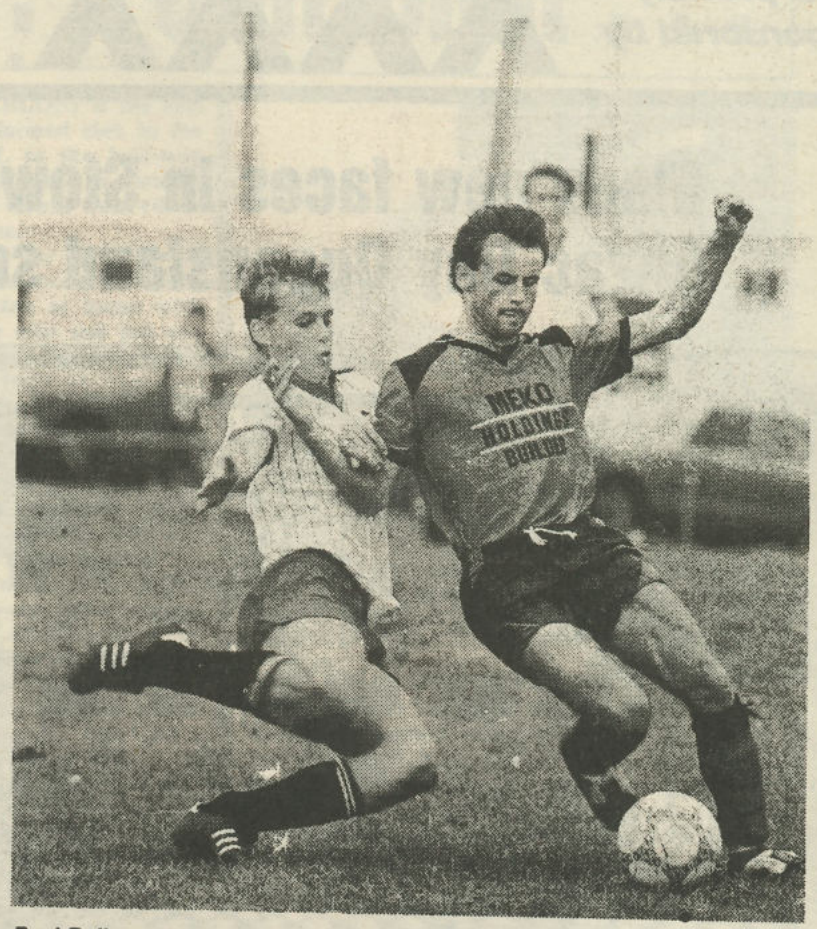
MORWELL 1 CROYDON CITY 1

In what Bobby McLachlan described as one of the best games of the year so far, Morwell and Croydon City fought out an exciting draw.

Morwell, weakened by the loss of Billy Wright and Jim Nelson, got its equaliser two minutes from time when Jim McBride, who had been pushed up front in a last-ditch effort to force the equaliser, scored with his head after a cross from the right side to cancel out Croydon's goal of the first half scored by English signing Scott.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds, Bingham, Bruns, Walsh, Byrne, Doyle, Basara, McBride, Warzawski, O'Donnell, Cassar.

CROYDON CITY: Runje, Langsbury, Brack, Dobson, McIntosh, Brown, Van Egmond, Roodhouse, Humble. Scott, Brimmer.



Paul Rollermann of Springvale closes in to challenge Altona Gate's Bobby Momirovski.

Heidelberg's initiative

BY GREG BLAKE

STRUGGLING Heidelberg has approached Manchester United star Mark Hughes about the possibility of making guest appearances for the club later this season.

But it appears the club's bid to entice either Hughes or Socceroo star David Mitchell to the club for guest stints will fail.

Heidelberg president Lou Yoannidis says United has given the thumbs down to Hughes and that Mitchell, who plays for English club Chelsea, has committments in Canada during the UK close-season.

The approach to Hughes comes hot on the heels of the news that 31-year-old former England winger Peter Barnes will play with Melbourne JUST for the rest of the current NSL season.

Barnes is due to fly into Melbourne this week.

Heidelberg, desperate to move away from the foot of the table, has been scouting far and wide for talent to bolster its ranks and is set to make bids for three new players.

Morwell Falcons striker Peter Sokuluk trained with the club last week and the Bergers are also known to be interested in Ringwood City's Peter Coker and transfer-listed Preston Makedonia midfielder Steve Gojevic.

Heidelberg has also offered Melbourne Croatia $20,000 in a bid to regain the services of Socceroo goalkeeper Jeff Olver.

— GREG BLAKE

TWENTY YEARS AGO

☐ **Melbourne's JUST fielded of 10 Yugoslav players in the State League match against Melbourne HSC. Odd man out was centre-half Billy Rice.**

★★★

☐ **George Nuttall, the former St George and Apia Australian international fullback, signed for Marconi.**

Victorian State League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brunswick Juv	7	5	2	0	17	4	12
Altona Gate	7	5	1	1	12	6	11
Morwell Falcons	7	4	2	1	10	5	10
Croydon City	7	3	3	1	10	4	9
Caulfield City	7	4	1	2	12	9	9
St Albans	7	3	2	2	8	5	8
Northcote City	7	3	1	3	11	10	7
Bulleen	7	3	1	3	10	11	7
Thomastown	7	3	1	3	6	7	7
Fawkner	7	2	2	3	5	9	6
Frankston Pines	7	2	2	3	7	13	6
Ringwood City	7	1	3	3	6	9	5
Box Hill	7	1	3	3	6	9	5
Green Gully	7	2	0	5	7	11	4
Maribyrnong Polonia	7	1	2	4	4	13	4
Springvale City	7	0	2	5	2	7	2

Results

MORWELL FALCONS 1 (McBride) CROYDON CITY 1 (Scott). ALTONA GATE 2 (Micevski, McMullen) NORTHCOTE CITY 1 (Tsangas) THOMASTOWN 1 (Athersych) BOX HILL 0. JUVENTUS 5 (Egan 2, Lane, Belic, De Amicis) POLONIA 1 (Bonk) GREEN GULLY 1 (Grimaud) BULLEEN 2 (o.g. Troglric) FAWKNER 1 (Emmanuele) ST ALBANS (Morovic, Pondeljak, Gagula) RINGWOOD CITY 1 (Cocker) CAULFIELD CITY (Drakeford) SPRINGVALE CITY 0 FRANKSTON PINES 1 (Bothwell).

Top Scorers

5: Egan (JUVE) McMullen (ALT), 4: Gagula (ST ALB) Basara (MF), Woodall (NC), 3: Humble (CROY), Incantalupo (BULL), Drakeford (CAUL), Emmanuele (FAWK), Morovic (ST ALB), Sokoluk (MF), Tsangas (NC), Bonk (POL), 2: Byrne (MF), Athersych (THOM), Davey (RING), Stirton (FP), De Amicis (JUVE), Bozikas, Lujic (BULL), Herd, Patterson (JUVE), Filipou, Pappas, Deligiannis (CA).

THIS WEEK'S GAMES:
Saturday Bulleen v Polonia, Caulfield City v Altona Gate, St Albans v Springvale City, Northcote City v Fawkner, Juventus v Morwell Falcons (7pm).
Sunday Frankston Pines v Thomastown, Box Hill v Green Gully, Croydon City v Ringwood City.

• **Yugoslavia's brilliant young striker, Dejan Savicevic, is out of action for at least two months after undergoing an operation on his groin. He will miss Yugoslavia's World Cup game against France in Paris, on April 29.**

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ALAN CLARK REVIEWS
The Soccer Scene in . . .
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BOBBY HOGG

CENTRAL District Apac has turned to youth this year with new signings Richard Howlett and Richard Hughes impressing.

But former Socceroo battling Bobby Hogg will has some experience to blend with the new breed.

Alan Strain, Larry Sullivan, Bobby Henderson and Robert Knowles will give the coach a boost.

★★★

THE SOUTHERN Districts Junior Soccer Association has honored Carole Hargreaves and Ralph Morris with Life Membership.

Carole has worked with the Association for 15 years with Ralph being involved for around 20 years.

★★★

PRELIMINARY rounds of the Federation Cup will be played on April 25.

Hellas to the test

TRADITIONAL rivals Adelaide City and Hellas clash on Saturday in a State League match packed with interest.

Up until last weekend the clash would have looked a formality for Hellas.

They had streamrollered past opponents with seemingly invincibility whilst City had failed to score the goals their outfield play had merited. But on Saturday, all changed.

Hellas came a cropper against Campbelltown and City scored their first win of the season with goals from David Clarkson and young Joe Barbaro. The attacking Hellas style will be put to the test by Bugsy Nyskohus' young braves this weekend.

League leader Polonia got it tough before downing Port Adelaide United 2-0 with Mariusz Niewiadomski netting his seventh goal of the season.

He'll be the big danger on Saturday when Polonia entertain Ampol Cup winners but now bottom of the League Croatia.

Croatia crumbled 2-0 at home on Saturday to Adelaide City and cannot be relishing the thought of travelling to Polonia Park.

Campbelltown hassled and harried Hellas out of their stride on Saturday and will be out to do the same again when they entertain Birkalla.

The Eagles took advantage of early missed chances by Salisbury on Saturday to record a 2-0 victory. Eddie Briscoe bagged both opportunist goals.

Salisbury has talent aplenty but they are not producing the goods yet for coach Eric Norman. The Berries have home advantage on Saturday and will have to be on their mettle to deal with progressive Azzurri, inspired by coach Jan Kierno and old playmaker John Francis.

Azzurri knocked over Modbury 2-1 on Saturday and are happy and confident.

Para Hills still have to score a goal after five games and will find the Mapgies from the Port no charitable institution this Saturday.

Para threw 15-year-old Ray Repanich into battle last week and he did well enough to earn another chance against Port which battled before succumbing to Polonia's power.

Lion figured in a scoreless home draw on Saturday against Para and will have to battle for any joy this week away to Modbury.

The Golden Grove club is struggling for consistency but will be tough opponents on their home track.

Zoran Matic hits back

COACH Zoran Matic will not hear of change at Adelaide City just for the sake of it.

"Our record can stand for itself," said Matic.

"People should just check the statistics over the past four years before they criticise too much.

"Some people want change. But there is no point in changing just for the sake of it."

Matic knows he has been under attack by local ethnic radio. He is not impressed.

"I know from my Italian friends that my name is muddied after each game," said Matic. "But why doesn't the radio station face up to me and ask me questions. There are a few things I'd like to say, too."

The coach believes the criticism is pulling his team together.

"Its like in a tragedy," said Matic. "The spirit is right in the club and the attitude is there though there still seems to be a psychological problem in games when we go a goal ahead.

"We seem to be slowing down and trying to protect what we have.

"I've got on the players nerves. I've been rough and been nice.

But, in the end, they only can do what they want to do. You just have to try to find the switch to turn on the lights."

Matic, though, said he now was reasonably confident his side would fight in every game.

"I wasn't sure before but I am now. If the players give all they're got they can do no more," he said.

Matic also had a word about City's cellar-dweller State League side.

"There has been speculation about Adelaide City in the First Division," said Matic. "But we cannot compete there in money with other clubs.

"But we are not there to compete in the same sense. The boys are in it to develop for the NSL.

"Clearly there is a big difference between the boys and the NSL. They now they have to sacrifice to make their way through to the national league.

"We don't need just good boys at the club. We need good players."

ADELAIDE WHISPERS

AZZURRI has made a buzz-bomb start to the season but Alex Filippis feels out of their picture.

The 24-year-old midfield man has asked for a transfer.

Azzurri has just bought Birkalla Eagles man Alby Briscoe to bolster its squad.

★★★

ADELAIDE City stars Alex Tobin, Joe Mullen, Robert Zabica and Paul Shillabeer felt the brunt of fans' frustration against Apia.

But next day the boos were forgotten when the quartet joined Kevin Johnson (Cumberland), Peter Herd (Seaford) and Wally Bojczuk (West Beach) in providing coaching for appreciative school kids at a FREE clinic.

★★★

CAMPBELLTOWN City striker Serg Giannone had a nasty experience while sitting on the bench for the match against Croatia.

He was bitten on the bottom by a red back spider.

The youngster is okay again now after treatment.

★★★

ADELAIDE City strongman Brian Northcote has been linked in a rich move to Croatia.

But he has been persuaded to stay with City.

Defender Danny Sergiacomi, however, is training at Croatia and is keen to move there.

★★★

Winning is "bewidiful", says Mike Johnson

WINNING and losing! What a difference they make in sport.

I write this following a weekend when Wayne Gardner won the first-ever Australian Motor Cycle Grand Prix in front of 92,000 on Phillip Island; when Jeff Fenech won his big fight, but lost his career; when the Sydney Swans ate humble pie in Brisbane, and when my Turkish-sponsored team lost in Sydney.

I write also before the great test awaiting the Socceroos and Frank Arok against Israel, when a win would be enormously beneficial to the game in Australia and to Arok's own career.

Looking for a common denominator, that is always present in all winning performances in sport, is not easy to find — indeed is there such a common factor?

Wayne Gardner's Grand Prix win produced a vital moment when he successfully took a big gamble and raced flat out into a very difficult corner; Fenench hammered his opponent with broken fists that were puffed with pain; the Swans were depleted for players, while their Brisbane opponents were able to use three new star players; my team played well, but finished badly and defended badly.

Talent, courage, skill, all of these played their part in those performances.

Lady Luck did not play a vital role.

I wonder if she will in the Australia-Israel clash?

Luck definitely is a factor when considering winning or losing in soccer.

The bounce of the ball, a refereeing decision, a slip, a stumble, a puff of wind — all of these can dramatically affect the result of a game.

On the other hand, there is the truism that we make our own luck. That luck is the outcome of opportunity and preparation.

If you were to ask me to say what single factor most often produced success in sport, or in life for that matter, I would say preparation.

Expert, diligent preparation is usually present in all champion-winning performances.

On the other hand, the power of our will, our inner self, has a mighty effect on whether we achieve the things we set out for.

Willpower is always pushing its way to any great sporting win.

". . . my bike wasn't the best . . . I just rode through the problems." So said Wayne Gardner.

". . . I wanted to beat him . . . I ignored the pain," Fenech.

". . . They threw themselves in totally committed . . ." Brisbane Bears coach versus Sydney Swans.

Socceroo willpower was sure to be a vital factor in their game against Israel.

Forecasting a week ahead, I believe it to be their biggest asset, especially with the state of the group points table.

The Aussies were playing for a win, only a win could do it for them.

Israel was playing for a draw.

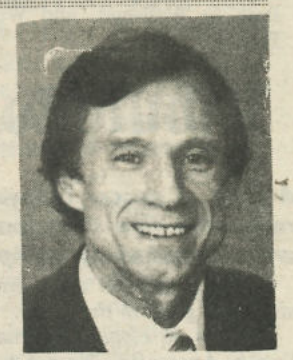
Yes, Australia's need to win would definitely have produced a psychological edge over Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Whether that would have been enough to offset Israel's greater technical ability is another matter.

It may have. When we are most committed is when we use our abilities to their fullest.

No matter what may have been the outcome of the Australia-Israel clash, I do know that neither Australia nor Frank Arok will have failed us.

Losing is not failure if you have prepared



thoroughly and then give your all in the contest.

And winning is bewdiful!!!

John Adshead quits — again

THE John Adshead era as coach of the New Zealand soccer team may well be over — again.

After the 2-2 draw against Israel in their World Cup qualifier at Auckland, Adshead said: "At this time I have no intention of continuing. Nothing has been discussed on the future.

"The national team doesn't know what it's doing. I am just looking forward to running my Mt Wellington National League side."

The New Zealand Football Association chairman, Warwick Gendall, when asked if Adshead figured in future coaching plans at this level, said: "Nobody does. At this time we do not have a coach of the national side."

But he added, just as quickly, "There is no hurry.

"The next World Cup is four years away and the Olympics are still likely to be restricted to an under-23 side but that doesn't mean we will not be having a look at the situation."

Of the decision to go with Adshead for this campaign, Gendall said he had no doubt that it was the right one.

The mere presence of 1982 coach Adshead at the helm no doubt played a part in attracting the big crowd to the game in Wellington against Chinese-Taipei.

The even bigger crowd at Western Springs was attributed to both Adshead and Wynton Rufer.

Sadly, in the later, more important part of the compaign, the support dried up and no more than 3000 turned up for the game against Israel which lived up to pre-match expectations.

That is something the NZFA and any promoters must address.

The game is back on the rails and the All Whites must continue to get their deserved exposure.

— TERRY MADDAFORD (courtesy NEW ZEALAND HERALD)

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NORTHERN NSW

News and Views

FROM DAVE WILLIAMS

Adamstown favoured as 1989 Northern premier

WITH the Northern NSW Soccer Federation's 1989 Tooheys-Coca-Cola State First Division premiership due to start next Saturday, Adamstown Rosebud is already being cast in the role of premier.

Success again this year, which is a distinct possibility, would give Rosebuds back-to-back titles and allow them the chance to overcome the hoodoo that prevented them from taking successive grand finals in 1987 and 1988 when they were beaten by Austral United and West Wallsend respectively.

Coach Neville Power has the depth of last year's squad — including skipper and midfielder John McQuarrie — to work with and will undoubtedly relish the opportunity to slot Peter Winsor into the regular line-up.

Winsor, who played for Northern NSW against Tasmania last season, has rejoined Rosebuds after leaving the club a few seasons ago to link up with Belmont-Swansea United.

His skills and those of David Bock, Ross Wells, Brett Bemmell, Glen Chapman and former Australian youth team triallist, Wayne Webb — transferred from Highfields Azzurri — will give Rosebuds an attack second to none in the premiership.

The defence is no less impressive, with the quality Neville Power has at his disposal.

Central defenders Mark Rayan and Neil Owens — who made a late decision not to ask for a transfer to Newcastle Austral — will provide the backbone of a unit that may well see the inclusion of John Parkes, whose transfer from his club of two decades has been finalised.

Belswans — Cardiff open season

BELMONT-Swansea United and Cardiff will open the season when they meet at Blacksmiths next Saturday.

On Sunday, Cessnock City, promoted from the Second Division, will play Lake Macquarie City at Macquarie Field; defending premier Adamstown Rosebud and the Stockton Sharks will clash at the Adamstown Sports Ground.

Pre-season competition winner Weston Bears will be at home at Weston Park to Wallsend, and West Wallsend meets Highfields Azzurri at Johnston Park.

Tribute to great campaigner

A host of soccer followers throughout at least three States will recall the fine contribution made to the code by Bob Lawrie, who passed away on April 11 while holidaying in Melbourne.

Lawrie, who had many friends in Newcastle, was an oustanding example of all that is good in the game.

He was an elegant international half-back who represented three States — South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland — and made two overseas tours with Australian teams.

He played for Australia in 1939 and turned out in England during the war years.

He toured New Zealand with the 1948 Australian team that returned unbeaten, and was captain of the side that visited South Africa in 1950.

Lawrie won the admiration of all the players on that tour, including the Newcastle-Coalfields contingent in the squad — goalkeeper Bill Mahoney, fullback the late Cyrill Nicholls, half-back Kevin O'Neill and inside forward Alan Johns.

RESULTS: Dulwich Hill 0 Granville-Chile 2 (Duarte, Ferris), Bankstown v Gladesville-Hornsby, postponed, Mount Druitt v Fairy Meadow, postponed, Manly-Warimgah 0 North Shore United 3 (Hunter, Ryan, Bass), Dulwich Hill 1 (Jabraiel) Yugal 1 (Tomasic), Granville-Chile 3 (Duarte 2, Ponce) Orange 1 (Sinclair), Campbelltown 0 Sydney Macedonia 1 (Fernandez), Bathurst '75 4 (Pickup, Davis, Hadley, Lippiatt) Waverley 1 (McPherson).

Leading scorers: 7 Sergio Barros, 5 Dave White, 4 Robbie McKegan, Fabian Kadric, Mark Butler, Harry Sattin, 3 Dennis Duarte, Neal Hunter.

STATE LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION

Inter Monaro v Polonia	1-0	1-1
Newcastle v Avala	0-2	1-1
Warringah v Melita Eagles	1-1	
Wollongong Mac v Canterbury M'ville	w/o	w/o
Sutherland v Canberra Croatia	2-0	1-2

STATE LEAGUE 2ND DIVISION

Bankstown v Gladesville H'by	w/o	w/o
Bathurst '75 v Waverley	4-1	0-3
Campbelltown v Sydney Mace	0-1	2-3
Dulwich Hill v SSC Yugal	1-1	4-1
Granville Chile v Orange Waratah	3-1	0-1
Manly Warringah v North Shore Utd	0-2	0-0
Mt Druitt v Fairy Meadow	w/o	w/o

FEDERATION LEAGUE THREE

Rosebery v Cant. & District	2-1	1-1
Blacktown v Southern Dists	w/o	w/o

FEDERATION LEAGUE SIX

Prospect v Lithgow W'mens	1-0	0-0
Liverpool City v Ashour Star	w/o	w/o

N.S.W. 2ND AND 3RD DIVISIONS

STATE LEAGUE 2 GR 1

Sydney Mace	5	4	1	0	12	2 9
Fairy Meadow	5	3	2	0	11	3 8
SSC Yugal	6	3	2	1	8	5 8
Gladesville Hby	5	2	3	0	8	6 7
Dulwich Hill	6	3	1	2	14	13 7
Bankstown	5	3	0	2	10	6 6
North Shore Utd	5	2	2	1	9	6 6
Granville Chile	6	2	2	2	7	7 6
Manly Warringah	6	2	1	3	9	12 5
Orange Waratah	6	1	3	2	9	12 5
Campbelltown Vk	5	1	2	2	5	4 4
Bathurst '75	6	1	0	5	7	17 2
Mount Druitt	4	0	1	3	2	7 1
Waverley	4	0	0	4	3	14 0

STATE LEAGUE 2 GR 2

Campbelltown Vk	5	4	1	0	12	5 9
Manly Warringah	6	4	1	1	12	5 9
Orange Waratah	6	3	1	2	8	6 7
Bankstown	5	3	0	2	25	7 6
Dulwich Hill	6	3	0	3	14	13 8
Gladesville Hby	6	2	2	2	8	7 6
Granville Chile	5	2	2	1	5	4 6
Mount Druitt	4	2	1	1	5	3 5
Sydney Macedonia	5	2	1	2	8	10 5
Waverley	4	2	1	1	6	8 5
Bathurst '75	6	2	1	3	20	24 5
North Shore Utd	5	1	2	2	4	5 4
SSC Yugal	6	0	1	5	4	16 1
Fairy Meadow	5	0	0	5	4	22 0

FED. LEAGUE 3 GR 1

Rosebery Portugal	4	3	1	0	8	3 7
Central Coast	3	2	1	0	3	0 5
Port Hacking	3	2	0	1	15	3 4
Concordia	3	2	0	1	8	7 4
Moorebank L'pool	3	1	1	1	3	3 3
Mt Pritchard	2	1	0	1	4	3 2
Rooty Hill W/Utd	2	1	0	1	5	5 2
Southern Dists	2	1	0	1	3	3 2
Canterbury & Dist	4	1	0	3	8	12 2
Uni. of NSW	4	1	0	3	3	7 2
Hills Utd	2	0	1	1	3	4 1
Blacktown United	2	0	0	2	3	16 0

FED. LEAGUE 3 GR 2

Rosebery Portugal	4	3	1	0	17	2 7
Hills United	2	2	0	0	7	1 4
Central Coast	3	2	0	1	11	6 4
Uni of NSW	4	2	0	2	6	7 4
Port Hacking	3	2	0	1	3	10 4
Canterbury & Dist	4	1	1	2	10	5 3
Mt Pritchard	2	1	0	1	5	5 2
Rooty Hill W/Utd	2	1	0	1	4	5 2
Southern Dists	2	1	0	1	1	2 2
Concordia	3	1	0	2	5	8 2
Moorebank L'pool	3	0	0	3	1	10 0
Blacktown Utd	2	0	0	2	0	9 0

STOP PRESS

TUESDAY APRIL 25, 1989 ANZAC DAY
NSL CUP
SEMI FINAL

South Melbourne or Heidelberg Utd vs Adelaide City 2.30pm Olympic Park.

DEFERRED MATCHES

Blacktown City v Sydney Croatia 2.30pm Gabbie Stadium, Marconi v St George BSC 2.30pm Marconi Stadium.

Bathurst crushes Waverley

BATHURST '75 produced their best performance of the season to crush Waverley 4-1 last Sunday in a game with relegation overtones at Carrington Park.

Bathurst in particular played with the commitment of a club desperate to avoid relegation, but also with the flair of a side arrogantly marching towards end of season honours, with both sides contributing to an entertaining contest.

1989 NSL CUP

ROUND 2
WED 19th APRIL 1989
OLYMPIC PARK
7.30PM

HEIDELBERG UNITED VS SOUTH MELBOURNE

TICKETS
ADULTS $7.00
STUDENTS & PENS $4.00
CHILDREN $2.00

VicHealth Foundation
South Australia Foundation South Australia
WEST END
NSL
mitre Ansett. Quit

CENTRAL COAST

ANDREW Ollier scored the winning goal from a free-kick 30 metres out in the dying stages of the game to give the Entrance a 1-0 win over last year's premiers Umina United.

The game was primarily a midfield battle between two enterprising sets of players.

Swansea United maintained their momentum with a decisive 2-0 victory over Southern Ettalong United. Goals were scored by Mark Timmins in the 57th minute and Greg Westcott 10 minutes later.

Toukley-Gorokan continued their dream debut to Premier League with a determined 3-1 victory over Wyoming. Goals were scored for Toukley-Gorokan by Darren Boyle (10th min.), while Steve Jager scored in the 35th and 40th minutes. Phil Cartner scored Wyoming's goal in the 25th minute.

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COMMISERATIONS and congratulations to the 1989 Socceroos who were bundled out of the World Cup by the Israelis, who secured a 1-1 draw and who were the better team on the park last Sunday.

The 1988/89 Socceroos played a game that was a credit to themselves and their country, but the Oceania/Israel group table shows that over the series Israel ended up with five points to Australia's four.

There already were chinks in Australia's armour when former assistant coach Eddie Thomson decided that he had insufficient time to carry on as Frank Arok's assistant.

His experience could not be replaced.

Arok's dedication shone out once again, and he wishes to carry on as national coach.

Normally a master of media relations, the nonsense that went on over the "addition" of "tough men" Craig Moffatt and Garry McDowall to the squad surely did nothing else but prove to the intelligent Israelis that they were on target for qualification.

Arok's previous contributions to Australian soccer in the Olympic Games and Bicentennial Gold Cup series were highly meritorious, and he deserves a vote of thanks from soccer fans Australia-wide.

Nonetheless the Australian Soccer Federation cannot be envied as they face the ticklish task of deciding whether he carries on, or whether a new man is needed.

Arok is convinced that the up and coming group of potential Socceroos has more skill than some of the present players. They will face some tremendous tests as the future unfolds.

The ASF now has the difficult task of funding an Olympic Games team, as a separate under 23 entity to the senior national squad.

The over 40,000-capacity plus crowd at the Sydney Football Stadium reflected well on the refreshing approach of the NSW Soccer Federation.

The new ASF officials accepted the advice from NSW in allowing free tickets for youngsters up to 16 years of age.

The previous administration had held the code back for years with its attitude. The future of soccer inevitably moves into the hands of the coming generation and at least they are being encouraged into the ranks.

No doubt soccer was fortunate that Sydney's weather smiled at last. The crowd that responded was greater than that recorded by the major code of rugby league, whose sway at club level is unfortunately not even being contested, as the wide interest in the Socceroos is not being properly followed up at club level.

The 40,000-plus crowd also said something for much of the Sydney media, and particularly for some of the daily newspapers.

Brisbane Schools in Japan

YOUNG strikers Clinton McDermott and Troy Wickstein were the stars of a Brisbane schoolboy team which visited Japan last week.

The pair between them finished the eight-match tour with seven goals.

McDermott, the younger brother of Queensland striker Billy McDermott, scored four goals while Wickstein, who scored more than 100 goals for his club side Acacia Ridge last year, netted three.

The Brisbane team, coached by Mal Bland, finished 17th from 54 sides invited to the tournament, which was part of the Kobe Centenary celebrations.

The youngsters adapted quickly to the icy conditions and won five of their eight games.

They missed a place in the final 16 knockout phase after narrowly losing their last match against a japanese side which eventually went on to make the final.

Coach Mal Bland had high praise for his captain, stopper Simon Bronks, but also paid credit to the entire squad.

"They were great ambassadors for Brisbane and all the boys could not have been better on and off the park. It was a pleasure to be with them," he said.

Bland, the Brisbane director of coaching, said the tour had opened his eyes to the booming potential for Japan to become a world Soccer force.

He said junior soccer players in Japan trained every week day for two hours and three hours each day at the weekends, plus their match.

"Their level of skill is very, very high, although they lack a little bit of on-field organisation," Bland said.

"But what is holding them back at the moment is they have a huge dropout from soccer between the ages of 13 and 15 when many boys turn to baseball, the national sport.

"If they can find a way of keeping these talented youngsters in soccer, Japan will start to be a real force in under 16 and youth level in the next few years."

Bingley impresses with the Saints

BY SCOTT ALLAN

ST GEORGE and Australian coach Frank Arok believes he has a striker of great potential in 17 year old Parramatta High School boy, Matthew Bingley.

Of his young charge Arok said, "The boy has skill beyond his years, and certainly knows how to reach scoring positions and finish off the job."

In his first five NSL games he collected three goals, but the supply has dropped off since then.

Last year Bingley decided not to go on tour with the Australian schoolboys, instead concentrating on gaining a first team place in the Saints lineup.

"I took a gamble. Frank told me that if I trained hard and played well in the trials I'd have a good chance of playing first grade this year, so I took his advice," he said.

The Saints supremo backed his initial judgement on Bingley and signed him on a three year contract.

Bingley had played his junior football with Granville and Melita before making the switch to St.George

Initially a defender, Bingley has his former Melita coach Ian Lloyd to thank for giving him the chance to play up front.

"The first time I played there I scored four goals," Bingley said.

The exceptionally quick Bingley has been concentrating on athletics at school, which has enabled him to find positions to score from rebounds against Sydney Olympic and Melbourne Croatia earlier in the season.

Although many Aussies before him have taken their talents overseas, Bingley has no such desires, just yet.

"I have dreamed about playing for Australia since I was a toddler. At least I know I've got time on my side," he added.

Dennis Murray appointed to Perry Park post

DENNIS Murray, the national executive director of the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation, has been named as the Queensland Soccer Federation's replacement for Alan Vessey.

The appointment comes nearly six months after Vessey left Perry Park to become general secretary of the Australian Soccer Federation.

Murray was selected from more than 40 applicants in the second attempt to replace Vessey.

The original selection after the first round of interviews, Craig McLatchy, opted not to take the position only days before he was to be introduced to the QSF annual general meeting.

Murray will start at Perry Park on April 24 and is eagerly looking forward to his new challenge.

The Melbourne-born 45-year-old has been involved in sport for more than 20 years. He is a former Victorian basketball representative, and qualified coach, and worked for many years with the YMCA.

Although Murray was behind successful legal action by the indoor federation against the Australian Soccer Federation last year over the Richie Barnard registration issue, he believes there will be no conflict in his new position.

"If I am coach of one team and we beat an opponent, then the next season I become coach of the beaten team, I think it would be very petty for the people at my club to hold the previous year's result against me," Murray said.

Murray has been with the Australian indoor soccer federation for four years, but prior to that had no involvement in soccer. He believes that will work in his favour in his new job.

"I think being an outsider helps because I can offer some new, refreshing ideas," Murray said.

"If you are not involved in the problems which have troubled an organisation previously, solutions can sometimes appear very easy."

The QSF management committee has changed the job specification from when Vessey was in charge.

Jim Gilbert, who with two office staff has ensured the Federation kept running after Vessey left, has been given the official title of secretary. Having adopted much of the key administrative work in recent months, it made sense to keep him working in those areas.

The executive director's position will now be concentrated more on promoting and marketing the game.

QSF president Wallace Dann believes the revision of the job specifications will give the Federation the best of both worlds.

Murray sees his job as one of ensuring the code progresses successfully in the right direction.

"It's not my job to force everyone to do things my way, but rather ensuring the decisions made by the code work successfully," he said.

"I believe it is not a pipedream for Australian soccer to think it can be the most popular and successful sport in the country."

Murray's immediate objective will be to ensure plans are initiated to make this season's grand final day a huge success, while in the short and long term he will seek increased sponsorship for the code.

Willie Wallace aids Campbelltown

FORMER Scottish international Willie Wallace is working hard to bring NSW Second Division club Campbelltown Vikings to their full potential.

Wallace is a former Scottish international who played on the wing for Glasgow Celtic, as well as turning out for and coaching Apia Leichhardt later in his career.

His experienced players include Ian Wotherspoon, and Peter Tracey who was signed from Avala.

A number of younger players with potential have been brought into the squad, with the aim to have the big satellite city fielding a team with a sound future.

By the turn of the century Campbelltown will have one of the biggest populations in NSW, exceeded only by Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Its younsters are on the improve, as witness the Macarthur Association juniors' victory in the highly prized NSW Centennial Cup.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB
AND
SUTHERLAND SHIRE
JUNIOR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.
AUSSIEDUCT UNDER 12 KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

Sutherland Shire Football Club in conjunction with the Junior Football Association will be conducting a 12-year-old tournament commencing mid-May 1989.
Players must be a member of club teams within an association registered with the NSWASF LTD.
Games will be played Monday and Wednesday evenings at Seymour Shaw Park, The Boulevarde, Miranda and will be 20 minutes each way.
Teams wishing to participate are to complete the attached form and return to the SSJSFA INC., P.O. BOX 188, GYMEA, NSW 2227. Entries close 30th April, 1989.
Entry fee is $30.00 and is to be forwarded with the entry form. Draw and rules will be available immediately following close of entry.
A trophy will be presented to the winning club, plus a monetary prize to the four placegetters of the tournament.

AUSSIEDUCT UNDER-12 TOURNAMENT
NOMINATION FORM

The Secretary
S.S.S.F.A. INC

The..... Football Club wishes to nominate for participation in the Aussieduct under-12 tournament being conducted by the Sutherland Shire Soccer Football Club and the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association Incorporated.
ENCLOSED $30 ENTRY FEE

SIGNED.....
CLUB SECRETARY.....
PHONE NO (home)..... **(work)**.....
CLUB COLOURS: SHIRT..... **SHORTS**..... **SOX**.....

White Eagles favoured

BY WALTER PLESS

HERE are the prospects of all the Tasmanian State League clubs, in what should be an enthralling season.

Southern clubs

White Eagle: *The reigning Cadbury State League champion will be a strong favourite to retain the title as it has strengthened its team and appointed a highly-qualified and experienced European coach in Eugene Mycak.*

Mycak is a physical education teacher and there will be no question marks about the team's fitness this season, as there has been in the past.

Defender Bob Nicholson, from Sydney, and Franco Previdi, signed from Hobart Juventus but a former White Eagle player, are the club's two new players.

Hobart Juventus: *Won the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup series, defeating White Eagle 2-1 after extra-time in the final, although this is a notoriously unreliable indicator of league prospects.*

Finished fourth last season, but must be regarded as the most likely team to deprive White Eagle of the title.

State coach David Smith has taken over from disciplinarian Peter Irving, and he has made a number of useful signings to strengthen an already impressive squad.

New signings are John and Michael McIntyre, Craig Tickner and Brett Williams, all from Croatia-Glenorchy.

Olympia: *Produced dismal performances in the pre-season tournament, losing twice, drawing once, and winning only one game, by virtue of an own-goal, against the weakest team.*

Coach David Crosson's biggest headache is a lack of strikers since the departure of Peter Sherman (Caledonian), Perry Forster (overseas) and Paul Xanthopoulos (Melbourne).

The club has replaced goalkeeper Martin Burden with Phil Kannegiesser.

Caledonian: *Finished in bottom place last season but the club has recruited well and should avoid relegation.*

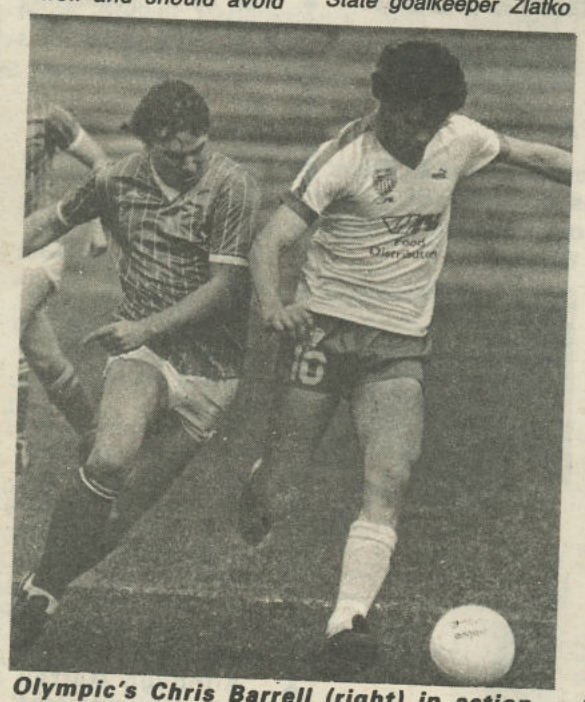
Brett Anderton is the new coach. He is from Western Australia and played for Calies in 1980 before returning to Perth.

New signings are John Paplos (South Hobart), Matt Wesson (Launceston Juventus), Peter Huigsloot (Croatia-Glenorchy), Peter Sherman (Olympia), Kevin Connell and Darren Anderton (Western Australia).

Croatia-Glenorchy: *Croatia ended up in a disappointing sixth place last year but the going may well be even rougher this year as the club has been decimated, with no fewer than nine first-team players leaving for other clubs.*

Newly-appointed coach, Neil Thomas, together with Ivan Baric and Nenad Zajec, are the only experienced regulars left from last season.

Croatia achieved a major coup by signing State goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic from Rapid.



Olympic's Chris Barrell (right) in action against Rapid two seasons ago. Olympia will have to improve on its pre-season form to be a major force in Tasmania this year.

Northern clubs

Launceston Juventus: *Probably the strongest of the Northern contenders, having already won the Century Motors Steve Hudson pre-season competition.*

Peter Savill, the ex-Leeds United player, has taken over as coach from Ross Wesson.

Savill, the assistant State coach, is an outstanding player and the example he sets will bring the best out of his charges.

Juventus has lost three English imports, brothers Colin and Steve Guest, and Andy Geary, but has replaced them with two new Englishmen from the Accrington Stanley club, Mark Heyes and Paul Ewert.

Heyes is a very mobile striker who is good in the air, while Ewert is a fullback with a cultured left foot.

Launceston: *Known as Launceston Matric last season, the team finished second-last, but a successful recruiting campaign should improve things.*

Peter Davidson from Devonport City is the new coach who replaces Scott McKay, and new players include Branco Barac, a defender from George Town United, and goalkeeper Quentin Darby, originally from Devonport.

Devonport City: *City completed last season in mid-table and coach Ken Morton will be looking to improve on that performance.*

The team lacks strikers, as evidenced by its solitary draw and two losses in the pre-season competition.

New players are Tim Jones, a midfielder from Burnie who spent last year in the United States, Ian Hendey, a left fullback from Riverside Olympic, and Noel Nethery, a midfielder from Ulverstone.

Ulverstone: *Ulverstone was in trouble for most of last season but finished third-last and new coach Alex McDonald will have much the same squad to work with.*

McDonald knows what the game is about. He coached Devonport two seasons ago and the team went 37 games without defeat.

Burnie United: *Burnie is the new team in the competition, replacing George Town United, and coach Mike Denton, a former Australian international, knows exactly what he's up against.*

Denton acknowledges that Burnie's first priority is survival.

ACT BRIEFS

ACT girls carnival

As convenor of girls soccer for the ACT Primary School Sports Association and for Year 7 girls in the ACT Secondary School Sports Association, I would like to officially invite any Under 13 club or representative team to a two day carnival to be held on 29 and 30 July in Canberra.

A similar carnival was successfully held in 1988 which included a number of Sydney teams such as Gladesvill-Hornsby, Winston Hills, Castle Hill and Western United (Liverpool), as well as a team from Albury Wodonga.

The games would be held at Hackett Oval and canteen facilities will be available on both days.

All players will receive a medallion (gold, silver or bronze) and the winning team will receive the perpetual trophy that was first awarded at last year's tournament.

Referees will be provided wherever possible.

Accommodation at the Carotel Caravan Park is available for 10/11 people per room at $35 plus $5 per person (breakfast and dinner can be arranged).

The Carotel is situated quite close to the playing fields.

As well as this, two teams can be billeted by the two ACT teams that will be taking part in the tournament. If you wish to take up this offer, please contact me as soon as possible.

In order to pay for the fields and the medallions, the cost of competing would be approximately $7 per child, depending on the number of teams competing.

There will be an additional charge for those games with official referees.

Any teams interested in taking part should contact Steve Hayes Tel (062) 316 868 (H), (062) 881 496 (B).

Mail should be directed to 51 McDermott St, Kambah ACT 2902.

ONE of the area's most promising young officials, Bill Simeonovic, has received the Security Mangement Services encouragement award for 1988.

Now in his third season as a referee, Simeonovic was formerly a player for ANU and Canberra United.

★★★

IN a further development in the dispute between the ACT Indoor Soccer Association and the Australian Federation, the director of referees for the ACTISA, Peter Burrows, said he wanted nothing more to do with the national organisation. "I was told at a meeting that accreditation was being withdrawn from all indoor referees in the area," he said.

"I have managed to speak to all but one of my referees and they back me."

Westfield Shopping Town will sponsor ACT junior soccer for the third year running.

The deal, worth $12,000 in 1989, is recognition of the importance of the junior game in the territory, league chairman Derek Croxford said.

"This year 14 clubs *will field 350 teams* with some 4500 youngsters involved."

He admitted that not all juniors went on to the senior ranks, "but at least they have been involved in a code which develops coordination and athleticism — and that's a good beginning."

★★★

POTENTIAL ACT referees will have the opportunity to try out at a course being held this month.

Dates and other information can be obtained from Paul Murphy on 58 4345 or Terry Wyatt (41 6915) and successful applicants will be on the field by May.

★★★

GRAHAM COOKE

'KEEPER CRISIS

INTER Monaro's goalkeeping problems approached crisis point, yet again when reserve 'keeper Gaitanno Nesci limped off during the club's NSW reserve Soccer League game with Rockdale Ilinden.

The youngster was taking medical advice this week as to whether the pain in his leg was due to ligaments or something even more serious.

"There is considerable swelling which began almost as soon as he came off," senior coach Walter Valeri said yesterday.

The score was 1-1 at the time, but with a non-goalkeeper between the posts, Monaro went down to a 4-1 loss.

Nesci's injury puts the pressure back on Valeri in his heartbreaking two-month search to secure experienced back-up for first teamer Manuel Notaris.

The emphasis has switched to former Croatia Deakin player Darko Pokas now that negotiations with *Canberra City Concordia* over Steve Hoszowski have apparently fallen through.

"It seems Concordia wants to hang on to Hoszowski this year," Valeri said.

"But we have been running into problems with getting a clearance out of Darko's last club in the Victorian League."

But goalkeeper is by no means the limit of Valeri's worries.

Bruno Monterosso, who dislocated his shoulder against Melita Eagles a week ago, could be out for another month, Craig Alchin has missed a game after mangling a finger in a work accident, while Mark Arthur had to have stitches in a shin gash following an over-robust training game.

— GRAHAM COOKE

Sydney teachers' course

BY IAN MARRIOTT

ONE hundred schoolteachers will be participating in Level 1 coaching courses for Soccer in early May.

The Department of Sport Recreation and Racing have decided to contribute $12,000 to the Department of Education in order to enable the teachers to have a productive Soccer coaching day away from the classroom.

Courses will be split into three areas;

1. Western, which will cover Parramatta, Blacktown etc through to the Blue Mountains and will be held at Valentine Park on 4th May.

2. Southern and Eastern staged at Bates Drive on 9th May, catering for Sydney's south side down to Caringbah.

3. Northern Districts of Sydney are being held at Cromer Park on the 11th May.

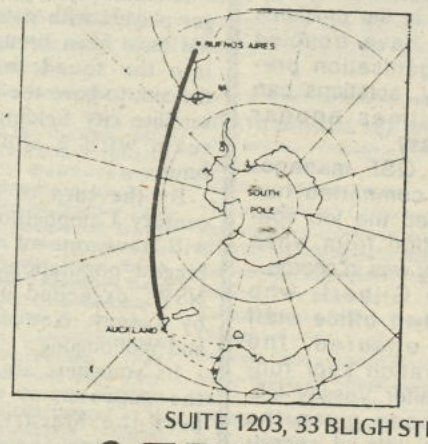
MITRE SPORTS will be supplying a number of balls to be used as prizes, along with the SLAZENGER company, who will supply towels and a number of balls autographed by the Socceroos as giveaways to the teachers.

It is anticipated that all teachers who attend will receive the Level 1 coaching certificate.

The courses are being organised by the NSWSF and State Director of Coaching, David Lee, who hopes to introduce the modified game of 6 a side Soccer as a means of making the game a more acceptable sport in the school system, as well as increasing the game's profile.

ARGENTINAS

The South American Express



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BANKSTOWN DISTRICT UNDER 11

NSW NORTHERN BRANCH: Coach: Tony Barselaar. Manager: David Tapp: Luke Burke, Lee Winkler, Darren Quakley, Neal McCarthy, Andrew Graham, Marc Seymour, Anthony Mercer, William Nizzi, Mathew Bell, Kris Pollock, David Tapp, James Graham, Daniel Marriott.

Centres of excellence active for 1989

THE extremely popular and productive Centres of Excellence Programme will be held again in 1989.

There will be one available to each Association with over 2000 registered players, while others should combine to reach this figure.

This will mean that there can be as many as 25 Centres of Excellence in total for each relevant age group.

A centre of Excellence consists of an intensive coaching programme each Monday evening within the Association for a period of 12 weeks.

The squad is restricted to twenty 10, 11 and 12 year old boys in one group and the same number of 13 and 14 year old boys in a second group.

Participants are meant to be the best that the Association has to offer, and the Centre of Excellence is meant to support their present coaching to help them improve their skills with a view to their future development.

Selection of participants is done in three parts.

The clubs nominate their best players to their Association, the Association narrows the total in each group to a maximum of 100 players, the State Director of Coaching will then reduce this number to 20 participants for each Centre of Excellence.

DAVID LEE

Cost per accepted player for the 12 weeks coaching — and a home training programme specifically designed for skill development and intrinsic motivation — is $40.

Associations that have held these courses in the past will be aware of how valuable they are, and will no doubt wish to have them again in 1989.

Associations that have not had a Centre of Excellence before are encouraged to do so this year.

Nominations from both will need to be received by the end of April so that they can commence before the cold weather sets in.

Please contact the State Director of Coaching, David Lee, on (02) 629 1800 for further detail and nominations.

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

SATURDAY 15TH APRIL

			U13	U14	U15	U17
Nepean Assoc	v	APIA Leichhardt	w/o			
Blacktown City	v	Illawarra	2-0	1-0	1-1	10-0
Canterbury Dist.	v	Sydney Olympic	w/o			
Sutherland	v	St George	2-1	1-1	0-2	2-4
Melita	v	Marconi	w/o			
Ku-ring-gai	v	Croatia	0-0	0-1	2-3	0-7
Cant/M'ville	v	Bankstown	1-2	0-3	2-1	3-2
Pen/Uruguay	v	Sthn Distrcts	w/o			
Gladesville	v	Central Coast	2-1	1-3	1-0	4-1
Polonia	v	Rockdale	w/o			
Warringah	v	Macarthur	2-3	2-2	0-1	2-3
Avala	v	Manly Warringah	1-1	0-0	0-1	2-0
Blacktown	v	Yugal	w/o			

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES

ROUND 5 SATURDAY 22ND APRIL

DIVISION 1

Apia Leichhardt	v	Illawarra	Lambert Park
Blacktown City	v	Canterbury District	Gabbie Stadium
Sydney Olympic	v	Sutherland Shire	E.S Marks Field
St George	v	Melita Eagles	Peakhurst Park
Marconi	v	Sydney Croatia	Marconi Stadium
Bankstown Assoc	v	Nepean Assoc	Potts Park
Canterbury M'ville	v	Ku-ring-gai	Arlington Oval

DIVISION 2

Gladesville H'by	v	Southern Districts	Pioneer Park
Central Coast	v	Polonia	Bill Pluim Park
Rockdale Ilinden	v	Warringah F'water	Mahony Oval
Macarthur Assoc	v	Manly Warringah	Lynwood Park
SSC Yugal	v	Penrith Uruguay	Mona Park
Blacktown Assoc	v	Avala	Mt Driutt T C

ROUND 6 TUESDAY 25TH APRIL (ANZAC DAY)

DIVISION 1

Apia Leichhardt	v	Canterbury District	Lambert Park
Blacktown City	v	Sutherland Shire	Gabbie Stadium
Melita Eagles	v	Sydney Olympic	Melita Stadium
Sydney Croatia	v	St George	Allambie Reserve
Ku-ring-gai	v	Marconi	Parklands Reserve
Illawarra	v	Bankstown Assoc	Towradgi Park
Nepean Assoc	v	Canterbury M'ville	Cook Park

DIVISION 2

Gladesville H'by	v	SSC Yugal	Pioneer Park
Polonia	v	Southern Districts	Chopin Park
Warringah F'water	v	Central Coast	N.N.F.C.
Manly Warringah	v	Rockdale Ilinden	Cromer Park
Avala	v	Macarthur Assoc	Knight Park
Penrith Uruguay	v	Blacktown Assoc	Plumpton Park

Hints for young keepers

BY COURTESY OF REUSCH

GOOD advice is not always dear.

Here are some hints from top international goalkeepers:

Use only goalkeeping gloves which are not tight-fitting, but are in fact a bit loose.

Do you remember Sepp Maier and Jean-Marie Pfaff with their really big gloves?

By following them you will gain in three respects:

1: You will improve the rebound-dampening effect. If your gloves are tight, the ball will bounce back much more.

2: You can grab and secure the ball better.

3: The porous latex materials used for the inside-hand as well as the seams are under much more stress, and therefore wear off much faster if you wear tight gloves.

All "Reusch" goalkeeper gloves have an elastic wrist plus wrist-band all around, which give you wrist support and the possibility to adjust individually.

Dust and dirt reduces the adhesion and impact cushioning of your gloves. Never leave your gloves covered in mud or stained with soil.

"Reusch" goalkeeper gloves get back their non-slip power if they are washed properly.

Wash like wool.

The temperature of the water must not exceed 30 degrees; hot water destroys the natural latex.

Use only little and a mild detergent.

Do not scrub the gloves but only squeeze-wash them.

Rinse thoroughly in a lot of cool clean water.

Never dry them in front of or on a heater, open fire on sun-light, but in a cool shady place, otherwise they will go brittle and crack.

Moisten/dampen inside-hands before use.

Some keepers hold them under a tap, some squeeze wet towels or sponges between their gloves before and even during the game.

Never treat the palm of your gloves with any chemical.

Do not store in sunlight. UV light destroys the natural latex.

The gloves might stick together if stored under high temperature or pressure, eg on the rear window ledge of your car.

Keep your gloves always in a cool covered place.

Progression for cadet referees

The choices available

OUR 14-year-old referee is now 20 years old, going on 21, with over six years refereeing under his belt and is eligible to apply for his class 2.

He applies and his branch arranges for him to attend a series of lectures to prepare him for his class 2 theory exam.

He is required to achieve at least an 80% mark to pass.

Having passed his theory, his branch will now make application to the 'Double A' NSW for his field test.

He will be subjected to two field tests ,generally in two other referee branch areas and will be required to gain an 80% pass mark in both inspections.

Arrangements for the field inspections are done by the 'Double A' NSW Divisions Exam Board and where these inspections are carried out are at their discretion.

A failure in either inspection for him means at least a three-month wait and then try again with two more inspections.

Our referee passes his two field inspections and by now another season is all but finished — his seventh as a referee.

From the time he completes his second field inspection, he must wait a futher two years before he can apply for his final regrading examination — to classs 1.

That will mean that at the time he becomes eligible, he has had at least nine years as a referee.

Once our referee has gained some experience on senior games, and often it is about the time they have gained their class 2, there are some choices he could make so far as the direction his refereeing career might take.

1—He may decide that refereeing at amateur level of Soccer is all he wants to do, and chooses to remain exclusively with his "Double A" branch.

2—He may decide to leave his branch and join the ASRF NSW Division. We often refer to this division as our "senior division."

3—He may decide to join the senior division, but not until he has obtained his class 1.

4—He may decide to dual-affiliate — that is to belong to both his branch and the ASRF. NSW Division. This way he can continue to be of assistance to his branch and start to gain that valuable experience on yet another tier of Soccer. That higher level is organised and run directly by the NSW Soccer Federation.

For the time being, our referee chooses to dual-affiliate and make himself available for refereeing in his branch on Saturdays, and with the senior division on Sundays.

He had one question before he made the choice: what will be my standing with the senior division? Will my achievements as a referee in my branch receive recognition?

We will look at this matter next week as we follow the progress of our referee.

— RON BEAUMONT

ENGLISH FOOTBALL REVIEW

Charlton lives again at the Valley

FROM MIKE TICHER

IN recent years virtually every League ground in London has come under threat from one source or another.

Chelsea's Stamford Bridge and nearby Craven Cottage (Fulham) were both bought by property developers, who are still trying to achieve their aim of covering the sites with luxury apartments.

Queen's Park Rangers are now owned by the same company.

Rumours and speculation over plans for Wimbledon to move from their Plough Lane ground have resurfaced at regular intervals since their arrival in the League 12 years ago, intensifying as they have risen to unprecedented prominence.

Millwall recently admitted that they were considering moving from their ground, The Den, to a new purpose-built stadium in the same area.

The main reason behind all this insecurity has been the phenomenal rise in property prices in the capital, which have made clubs both vulnerable to hostile outside influences, and aware of their own potential value.

However, for one club, Charlton Athletic, the anguish of homelessness is ending, not beginning, following the recent announcement that they will return to their former ground, The Valley, during next season.

This is the triumphant culmination of a battle by the club's supporters to return, a campaign which seemed to be a hopelessly lost cause for much of its duration.

Charlton left The Valley, their home for over 60 years, in the middle of the 1985-86 season, a year which, ironically, also saw them promoted to the First Division after decades in the wilderness.

Fans were informed of the move in a brief statement handed out two weeks before the club left.

The announcement was so abrupt and impersonal, and such a shock, that relations between the management of the club (which included soccer TV personality Jimmy Hill) and many supporters have been irrevocably soured.

Many have refused to go to watch the team in its new surroundings, despite their heroic (and so far successful) attempts to stay in the First Division under extremely trying circumstances.

Charlton, situated near the Thamas in the South-Eastern borough of Greenwich, were at one time one of the best-supported teams in London, and The Valley in its heyday was the biggest club ground in England.

It is unique in the fact that it has never been full to capacity, even though the record crowd is over 70,000.

However, after Charlton's most successful era in the 1940s and 50s, the ground was sadly neglected, and by the 1980s its vast crumbling terraces were becoming unsafe and manifestly unsuitable for the more modest attendances that the team was then attracting.

The woeful short-sightedness on the part of the club's management allowed one of England's genuinely great football arenas to wither and, it seemed, to die.

Although Charlton have rarely reached huge peaks on the field, the character and romantic appeal of The Valley made them a part of the very fabric of London football.

Boardroom politics

The decision to move to Selhurst was complicated by the fact that different companies and individuals had come to own different part of the ground during its sorry decline in the 1970s.

Fluctuations in the boardroom continue to play a major part in the saga, with new chairman Roger Alwen finally securing the return after months of uncertainty.

By any criteria, (except the performance of the team itself), Charlton's stay at Selhurst has been a disaster.

Despite the attractions of First Division football and no less than six 'derby' matches every year, average crowds remain around 7,000.

For some, the nightmare journey across London's southern suburbs is too much to contemplate week after week.

For others, the team without the ground has lost all identity. Some have followed Charlton faithfully to away matches, but will not go to 'home' games.

Winners are grinners . . . Nottingham Forest's Steve Hodge holds aloft the Littlewoods Cup, while Gary Parker leads his team-mates in sharing the revelry

The experiment of ground-sharing has been a deeply unhappy experience.

With their status at Selhurst Park little better than temporary lodgers, the whole future existence of the club has seemed in doubt at times.

But now, incredibly, the nightmare is at an end.

The present condition of The Valley is pitiful.

It has been extensively vandalised while lying derelict, and trees grow on the terraces.

Somehow, the huge cost of reconstruction has to be met, but there will be many willing volunteers to help with the task.

Although the prospect of an alternative site in Greenwich was at one time on offer, Charlton fans have persisted in their demands that The Valley is their only home and that all obstacles to their return there could be overcome, with enough will, and finance.

Perhaps the lessons of the campaign will be learnt, as well as the folly of uprooting the club in the first place.

Other clubs who underestimate the attachment of their fans to their traditional homes would do well to take note.

However, for the moment, Charlton can simply celebrate going home.

That occasion will generate huge emotion, and should begin the process of defusing the acrimony and bitterness which has clung to the club over the last few years.

It's by no means over-optimistic to hope that the end of their trauma may also be a significant event in the revival of English soccer as a whole.

Greiner, Warren support North Shore

A bumper crowd of North Shore personalities was in attendance at the Lane Cove Businessmen's Club last Monday night for the launch of the new concept North Shore United Football Club.

Former Australian Socceroo captain Johnny Warren told the guests that it was up to the soccer community to spread the gospel about the "greatest game in the world", and they only had themselves to blame if the message did not get across.

As a boy, he said, he was persecuted because of his wish to play soccer in the rugby league stronghold of St George, but he believed passionately in the game he wanted to play, and it was up to everyone associated with the code to fight for what they believed in too.

The North Shore United plan to re-emerge as a unified fully Australian club, embracing all North Shore residents, irrespective of socio-economic or ethnic background, was fully endorsed by Warren who told of his own disappointment that a similar experiment at Canberra City had taken off brilliantly, but run out of steam.

The task in front of the North Shore club was to build on the interest shown at the launch and persuade everyone present to throw their weight behind the club and lobby the authorities for a fair deal.

The daily press, politicians and local government officials all needed to know that there was a demand for a top stadium and unless a suitable facility was made available, soccer football codes.

Later NSW Premier Nick Greiner accepted a certificate of membership of the new club, as its number one member and carried on the theme that Warren had opened with.

He said the vast playing numbers in the northern suburbs reflected an obviously huge interest in the game, and that the establishment of a major club was a welcome move.

Afterwards, organiser John Williams announced the formation of an international representative panel.

The panel of 12, with more to follow, comprises soccer-minded people resident on Sydney's North Shore who wish to declare their support for the new club.

The ultimate aim of "Australianising" the game, in the face of its most fervent criticism that the game is supported only by the ethnic communities, will only happen if existing and new clubs embrace all interested people in their district.

NSW Federation vice-president George Dick announced that the Federation was pleased to see the new club being formed, after both Kuring-gai and North Sydney-Artarmon had been found unsuitable for immediate inclusion in the newly restructured State League First Division.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Write to ASW Letters, PO Box 406, Broadway NSW 2007. Please restrict letters to a maximum of 150 words and preferably typed, otherwise neatly hand-written.

VIEWPOINT

THE editorial in the March 29 edition was very good reading.

In your conclusion you asked: "What is the Australian Soccer Federation doing to put together a seminar?"

I came to Australia in 1961, as a player/coach and since that date I cannot recall anything the ASF have done which could be called progressive.

The same goes for the NSW Federation. For example, when we have an international match in Sydney, they always have an early game before the main game, on the same pitch.

This is not done anywhere else in the world, only in rugby league-minded Sydney. In soccer here we have the final four or five play-offs at the conclusion of the season. Again as done in rugby league, because everywhere else in the world the team first past the post is the champion.

And now the Australian Soccer Federation has sold the NSL television rights to the ABC.

Now on earth did they decide that? The ABC replays the matches at 5pm on Sundays. Every soccer player and supporter in the land is either in the dressingrooms, in the grounds or in their cars driving home from watching a match.

Thank God for giving us Frank Arok and his merry men.

At least they have given us some hope and something to shout about. Thank you Frank — and good luck against Israel.

I think that the soccer public must rise and stand up for SBS and support them more.

Jack van der Wal
Llandillo NSW 2760

[NSL soccer now goes out at 5pm Saturday. On Sundays at 5pm to Victoria and South Australia and at 10.30pm to NSW and Queensland under the NSL's arrangements with ABC-TV — Ed]

CROWD INCREASES

I think a way to increase soccer crowds would be to abolish the present National League format and establish a 10-team 18-round Super State League format in each state, (NSW, Vic, SA, Qld, Tas & WA).

Three points should be given for a win, two for a win on a penalty shoot-out after a draw, nil for a loss.

A NSW Super State League could look like this: Marconi, Apia, St George, Sydney Croatia, Blacktown, Melita Eagles, Sydney Olympic, Sutherland, Newcastle and Wollongong, meaning that virtually every match would be able to draw fans from both teams, which is not the case now in the National League.

The leading ACT and Newcastle sides and the Second Division winner could play-off for promotion to the NSW Super State League.

The season can be climaxed by home and away play-offs, with champions from each state competing.

It could look like this: the South Australian champion side playing the Western Australian side for one semi-final spot; Tasmania versus Queensland for another, joining NSW and Victoria as the four semi-finalists.

So every state in Australia can compete for the right to become Australian champion.

Soccer is the only code which could have this form of competition, so why don't we do it?

It would give every state in Australia an objective to become Australian club champions!

Robert Szomolnoki
Burwood 2134

Cobreloa's Chilean league-winning team: l to r standing — Cabrera, Puebla, Tello, Alarcon, Tabilo, Osben. Front row — Santander, Alegria, Gonzalez, Trobbiani, Garcia.

Rags to riches for Cobreloa

COBRELOA, who won the Chilean First Division title for the fourth time last year, have made one of the most rapid rises to the top in their country's history, and perhaps anywhere in South America.

Founded in January, 1977, it took them only a year to gain promotion from the Second Division and in their first season in the top flight they took the vice-championship.

The following year they did the same before winning the title for the first time in 1980. This was followed by their second title in 1982, the vice-championship in 1983, their third title in 1985 and 1982.

Cobreloa — from the mining town of Calama in the north of Chile, a virtual desert close to the Andes mountains where copper is mined — are perhaps the best organised soccer club in Chile under the auspices of a mining company, most of whose employees are members whose clubs fees are discounted from their wage packets.

For many of the miners from this poor district, soccer and following their club is one of the major objects in life.

Its officials are hard-working and strict and their finances are well run.

The last Chilean championship was not outstanding technically and Cobreloa also started the year rather poorly in the pre-season Degeder tournament.

But they improved slowly, outpacing more erratic teams with their steady performances.

Their team is a mixture of youth and experience of several veterans, under the capable guidance of Chilean coach Miguel Hermosilla.

As the season progressed, Cobreloa again showed the disciplined team work and tactics to which they owed their previous titles.

And this was especially notable in their away games, which they always played to win, while they were virtually unbeatable in their high-lying desert stadium.

Their yellow-shirted team finally won the championship by six points over another provincial team, Iquique, while Universidad Catolica were the highest-placed Santiago team, a further point behind.

Cobreloa's outstanding players were goalkeeper Mario Osben, a former international of long standing and experience; Marcelo Trobbiani, a former veteran Argentine international who proved to be a great organiser; and centre-forward Juan Gonzalez.

— ERIC WEIL (courtesy WORLD SOCCER)

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- The West German Association will stage a charity game, between Bayern Uerdingen and Fortuna Dusseldorf, to raise funds for the victims of the fire that ravaged Dusseldorf in February.
- **Ovidiu Sabau scored in the 48th minute to enable Romania to down Italy 1-0 in Bucharest. Three days earlier, Italy had beaten Austria 1-0 in Vienna. The Italian competition had been suspended because of Easter.**
- There were grave incidents in Zagreb after the league game between Dinamo and Partizan Belgrade. Seven people were seriously hurt, 32 arrested, four buses were burnt and a dozen shop windows smashed.
- **Poland could soon be joining the ranks of professional soccer. According to their Ministry of Sports, professionalism will be introduced next season. Romania, too, is looking into converting to full-time professionalism.**
- FC Koln's brilliant 22-year-old West German international midfielder, Thomas Hassler, is managed by his live-in girl friend, who chucked her job as a hairdresser to manage his affairs. Hassler's hassler?
- **Chelsea's midfield ace, Micky Hazard, is hankering for a move to the Continent. "Playing in France, Spain or Italy would suit my style," he says.**
- FIFA have taken action against two national coaches because of "bad" conduct. Luis Suarez, of Spain, has been suspended for one match and Mario Zagalo, the Brazilian who coaches the United Arab Emirates, for two games.
- **FIFA recommends that cooling, painkilling sprays should be avoided because they destroy the ozone layer. FIFA wants the gas-propelled spray replaced by plain ice or refrigerated water.**
- Manfred Kaltz, Hamburger SV's veteran West German international captain, has joined Bordeaux, of France, at the ripe age of 36.
- **Hooligan trouble during a league game against BFC Dynamo East Berlin brought a hefty fine on Chemie Halle, plus a warning that further trouble would mean a one-year ground suspension. Fans had forced a temporary halt in play by invading the pitch.**
- Dynamo Kiev star Igor Belanov says that transfer negotiations with Italy's Genoa and Atalanta, interrupted three months ago, have been resumed.
- **Ajax Amsterdam have been offered $4 million by French club Toulon in a joint bid for Dutch international forwards Rob Witschge and John Van't Schip.**
- A police swoop in the Bolton area in England ended in the arrest of 26 fans in connection with alleged soccer-linked offences of riot, violent disorder and malicious wounding.
- **Rangers have appointed a new chief executive in former TV boss Alan Montgomery while also celebrating a coverage deal with British Satellite Broadcasting.**
- Czechoslovakia's Player of the Year is Sparta Prague midfielder Ivan Hasek. In the annual poll, conducted by the sports magazine STADION, he finished ahead of former teammate Josef Chovanec, now with PSV Eindhoven.

"Golden Boot" has itchy feet

GALATASARAY's goalscoring sensation, Tanju Colak, may be headed for France next season.

Colak, nicknamed "Kral" ("The King") by adoring Turkish fans has had offers from Spain and Italy, but does not hide his preference for France.

"I would like to play for Auxerre or Monaco", he said.

"French Soccer is not so hard and the emphasis French teams place in attacking football would suit me better than the tight-marking tactics prevailing in Italy and Spain."

In a late development, Olympique Marseille have made a big offer for Colak — an offer too good to refuse perhaps.

France's best-supported team, which averages 28,000 spectators per home game, is prepared to splurge $2 million to sign him, plus a cool $900,000 signing-on fee, and many special win bonuses in a three-year deal.

Colak won Europe's "Golden Boot" award in 1988 for scoring the most league goals.

CORRECTION: The banned Yugoslav players mentioned in last week's ASW were from RAD, not Red Star Belgrade — Editor.

English club ban is lifted

ENGLISH clubs will be able to return to European competition in the 1990-91 season, provided their readmission is supported by the British government.

UEFA president Jacques Georges announced the decision after a special meeting of the UEFA executive committee in Palmela, near Lisbon.

English clubs were banned from European club competitions in 1985 after the Heysel Stadium disaster in Brussels which claimed 39 lives at the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus.

Liverpool fans were blamed for the riots and English clubs banned indefinitely from all three competitions.

"Having regards to the improvements in security of English football recently, the committee has decided to accept the re-integration of English clubs in European competitions from 1990-1991," Georges announced.

SOUTH AMERICAN SCENE

BY MARIO ETCHART

URUGUAYAN champion Danubio caused an upset by knocking South American and Intercontinental title holder Nacional of Uruguay out of the Libertadores Cup.

Danubio defeated Nacional 3-1 at Montevideo's Centenario Stadium, in front of 55,000 fans to earn a place among the eight best South American teams.

Defender Daniel Sanchez put Danubio 1-0 in front, with a header after 17 minutes. Nacional midfielder Sergio Olivera equalised in the 68th.

But strikers Gustavo Dalto, with another header in the 78th, and Ruben Da Silva, through a penalty in the 85th, secured a "historic" win for the Danubio youngsters.

Brazil's Internacional Porto Alegre defeated Penarol of Uruguay 2-1 in Montevideo to qualify for the quarter-finals. In the first leg, played at Porto Alegre, Internacional outclassed Penarol 6-2.

Surprise

Nacional of Medellin (Colombia) surprised the experts by also qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Despite a 2-1 defeat in the second leg, against Super Cup champion, Racing of Argentina, the Colombians went through because of better goal-difference. Nacional won 2-0 in the first leg played in Colombia.

Chilean champion Cobreloa qualified for the last eight by beating Ecuadoran Deportivo Quito 1-0 at Calama Stadium.

The Ecuadorans put up a brave fight and almost scored twice in the first half. Cobreloa midfielder Armando Alarcon and Quito's best player, Alex Aguinaga, were sent off in the 39th minute by Bolivian referee Oscar Ortube.

The locals poured on the pressure in the second half, and thanks to an own goal by Quito's central defender, Bolivar Ruiz, went through to the next round. The first leg ended in a 0-0 draw.

Olimpia of Paraguay qualified beating Boca Juniors of Argentina 6-5 on penalties.

Boca defeated Olimpia 5-3 in the second leg played in Buenos Aires, but the Colombians won the previous game 2-0.

Another match was decided by penalties: Deportivo Tachira, of Venezuela, won 3-0 against the Paraguayan Sol de America in the second leg played in San Cristobal.

The first leg also finished 3-0, but in favour of Sol de America. The Paraguayans finally earned a place in the quarter finals, in the penalty shoot-out, defeating the Venezuelans 3-2.

Brazilian champion Bahia reached the quarter-finals Cup with a 2-1 victory over Universitario of Peru at home in Salvador. The first leg ended 1-1.

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PARAGUAY, one of the teams in South America's World Cup qualifying Group 2 who may play-off against the Oceania winners, were surprisingly held to a 1-1 draw in Arima, Trinidad.

Trinidad and Tobago, who are still in the running for a berth in the World Cup finals, scored first, through Lawrence, in the 12th minute.

Paraguay got the equaliser, courtesy of a goal by Franco, in the 51st minute.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

WORLD CUP: Hungary-Malta 1-1 in Budapest; East Germany-Turkey 0-2 in East Berlin.

FRIENDLIES: Denmark-Canada 2-0 in Aarlborg, Poland-Romania 2-1 in Warsaw.

Time stands still for North Korea

IT is now 23 years since North Korea created a sensation by eliminating Italy to reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup in England, only bowing out to the great Eusebio-led Portugal after racing to a 3-0 lead.

Everyone presumed at the time that this heralded a new age for Asian soccer, led by North Korea.

This was not to be. While Africa did surge forward and can now mix it with the best, North Korea is nowhere near international standard.

Indeed, the gap between North Korea and the rest of the world has widened immensely and the North Koreans are amongst the also-rans even in Asia.

North Korea has not so much slipped backward. It's just that it has remained stationary while the rest of the world has progressed.

This not only applies in soccer, but in all areas of life in a country dominated by politics and personality cult.

North Korean soccer teams have very often been withdrawn from international competitions and they are not allowed by their rigidly doctrinaire government to play in countries whose ideology is not acceptable — which in these days of glasnost leaves out just about everyone.

As a result, North Korean teams badly lack big-match experience as they have no-one to play against.

Korean sides have often been volatile, walking off the field or being involved in all-in brawls on the pitch or on the sidelines.

There have been no attempts to discipline such behaviour as a North Korean expulsion is portrayed as a biased act of "imperialism" against the country.

North Korean participation in World Cup or Olympic qualifiers have been few and far between, and even at Asian level they seldom take part as they refuse to play against South Korea or any ally of the United States.

Domestically, North Korea only has some 9000 registered players — as against 100,000 in South Korea — and there are only 200 clubs.

Their season starts in March and ends in November.

The stadiums are modern and admission to games is free, but attendances at club games are modest.

The top teams are sponsored by the state and belong to the army or government-run industries.

The country's top club side is April 25, based in the capital, Pyongyang.

North Korea's only notable result since trouncing Australia in the World Cup en route to the finals in 1966 where they drew 1-1 with Chile, lost 2-0 against the USSR, beat Italy 1-0 and lost 5-3 to Portugal, was winning the 1985 World University Games in Japan.

But they triumphed against a weak field, defeating Great Britain and Japan to reach the final where they beat the Uruguayan students 1-0.

CHINESE EXODUS

NIAN WEISI, chairman of the China FA, has announced that more Chinese players will be allowed to go abroad professionally.

However, as the offer is open only to non-internationals over the age of 28, there is hardly likely to be any great rush on behalf of the European clubs.

What looks more likely are additional 'sport exchanges', such as the deal that look Jia Xiuquan and Liu Haiquang to Partisan Belgrade.

Such contracts allow the CFA to keep control of the players and both stars were recalled for the Hong Kong New Year tournament.

There are now two professional clubs operating in China — Foshan and Liaoning.

LEADING EURO SCORERS

HAGI

MILAN

MEDIOLANUM

VAN BASTEN

STEAUA BUCUREŞTI

THOSE are the top goalscorers in the three European Cup competitions, the second leg of the semi-finals of which will be played today (Wednesday, April 19):

CHAMPIONS' CUP: Lacatus (Steaua Bucharest) 7, van Basten (AC Milan) 7, Hagi (Steaua Bucharest) 6, Colak (Galatasaray) 5, Sanchez (Real Madrid) 5.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Penev (CSKA Sofia) 6, Stoichkov (CSKA Sofia) 6, Roberto (Barcelona) 5, Vialli (Sampdoria) 5, Vaiscovici (Dinamo Bucharest) 4, Gilligan (Cardiff City) 4.

UEFA CUP: Gutschow (Dynamo Dresden) 6, Thon (Bayern Munich) 5, Wegmann (Bayern Munich) 5, Kirsten (Dynamo Dresden) 5, Galloway (Hearts) 5, Solomon (Victoria Bucharest) 5.

Soccer fans are hoisted clear of overcrowded terraces after 4000 supporters without tickets were allowed in by police, creating a surge that crushed people against wire barriers, which hampered rescue workers from getting to the injured.

Sheffield disaster stuns soccer world

THE death toll in the Sheffield tragedy last Saturday had reached a shocking 108 as we went to press.

And as England tried to come to grips with yet another sporting crowd disaster — this one the worst on record — horrific tales emerged of how the victims died.

As fans packed Hillsborough Stadium for what promised to be one of the highlights of the season — the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest — a human mass pushed forward against safety barriers.

Limbs were torn out of their sockets as people grabbed at fences in a futile bid to escape when, with the game only four minutes old, police unwittingly opened a side gate to let in 4000 people crowding a side entrance.

A high, curved steel fence surrounding the pitch, designed to halt the violence that has plagued English soccer, made the terrace a death trap as fans were unable to escape.

There were screams of horror as young fans and children caught at the front of the stand were squashed helpless against the steel mesh, their faces turning blue from lack of oxygen.

The pitch resembled a battlefield as the dead and injured were rushed from the stadium on stretchers and broken advertising hoardings, while others spread-eagled on the turf were given the kiss of life and death.

Police have been blamed for the bloody disaster after admitting that a senior officer had ordered the stand's four-metre wide gates to be reopened after the kick-off to allow the ticketless supporters into the stadium.

The game was abandoned after only seven minutes when it became clear the disaster was even worse than the Heysel Stadium tragedy in 1985, in which 30 people perished when Liverpool supporters attacked Juventus fans.

Comparisons with the Brussels tragedy and its consequences are unavoidable so soon after the announcement that English clubs would be readmitted into European competitions in 1990-91 if they gained the British Government's support.

In Rome, Italy's soccer federation chief, Antonio Matarrese, said the disaster raised grave questions about UEFA's decision to let English clubs return to Europe.

"This terrible tragedy, which shocks us today while the memory of Italian fans who died in Brussels is still vivid, offends not only our conscience but that of a country like England, which wanted to make up for that dramatic page of soccer history," he said.

"Depression is now added to the sorrow for the victims and grave questions are raised about a decision, made by UEFA four days ago, which one thought could have been helpful to European soccer."

FOOTNOTE — Two minutes of silence for the victims of the Hillsborough disaster were observed before the start of last Sunday's Australia v Israel World Cup decider at the Sydney Football Stadium.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That Ron Giles was the first Australian player who threatened High Court action to secure a release from his club?

Giles, who played for Australia in the 60s, threatened to take Adamstown to court, but dropped the matter when he was allowed to join New Lambton South after starring from Sydney Croatia in a distinguished career.

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